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Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session (see E/2010/24, chap. I.B), the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010*. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

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Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

Summary

The present report describes the work carried out by the inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services to implement the recommendations set out in the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* and presents the next steps in the implementation programme, including the establishment of a group of national and international experts in this field, which was explicitly created for the purpose of guiding the implementation programme. Reference is also made in the report to the Global Forum on Trade Statistics, during which the need to improve the quality, availability and level of detail of statistics on trade in services was emphasized. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services summarizes the activities carried out by the Task Force in accordance with the decision taken by the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session in the area of statistics of international trade in services (E/2010/24, chap. I.B, decision 41/104), whereby the Commission:

(a) Adopted the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010*;

(b) Endorsed the implementation programme and urged the Task Force to take note of the following:

(i) The importance of the compilation guidance;

(ii) The significance of trade in services in globalization and links to other frameworks;

(iii) The emphasis on linking the *Manual* to the revised recommendations of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*, the *System of National Accounts, 2008* and the *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, 2010*;

(c) Urged the Task Force to give particular importance to the following areas:

(i) Foreign affiliates statistics, in particular outward foreign affiliates statistics;

(ii) Tourism statistics and the measurement of the contributions of tourism to national and regional economies;

(iii) Valuation and pricing;

(iv) Research and development;

(d) Urged the Task Force to set a time frame for the implementation plan so that member countries could plan their implementation processes accordingly;

(e) Urged that the national implementation programme be carried out as a coordinated effort of national statistical offices, central banks and other relevant Government agencies;

(f) Encouraged all relevant international agencies and the United Nations regional commissions, especially members of the Task Force, to contribute to the implementation of the *Manual* and recognized the efforts of the International Monetary Fund in capacity-building with regard to balance of payments statistics;

(g) Recognized that training was particularly important in trade in services statistics because of the methodological complexity involved.

2. The progress made by the Task Force since the forty-first session, in 2010, is described in section II below. Section III presents the establishment of an expert group on the compilation of statistics on international trade in services, which was created for the purpose of developing a guide for compilers of such statistics. Section IV presents an overview of the Global Forum on Trade Statistics, during which the participants presented their view on the future of international trade statistics and emphasized the need to improve the quality, availability and level of detail of statistics of international trade in services. Finally, section V summarizes the work accomplished by the Task Force in response to the requests of the Commission.

II. Activities of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

3. The composition and the organization of work of the Task Force were described in detail in its report to the Commission at its forty-first session (see E/CN.3/2010/6). That report also contained a full chronology of actions, consultations and reviews by the Task Force for the revision of the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* from 2005 to the end of 2009 (ibid., annex). Since the adoption of the *Manual* in February 2010, the work of the Task Force consisted initially of finalizing the official publication of the *Manual* and preparing the correspondence tables between the 2010 Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification and related classifications. Subsequently, the implementation of the *Manual* was at the top of its agenda. Another main focus of attention was the harmonization and rationalization of the work of international organizations involved in the collection and dissemination of trade in services statistics.

4. The *Manual* recommends that compilers implement a complete set of data elements that are based on internationally agreed standards and recommendations so as to progressively achieve comparability of published statistics on international trade in services. If the circumstances in the national statistical system so require, the implementation can be effected in two phases. The *Manual* recommends the implementation of four core elements in the first phase, namely: (a) the definition, valuation, classification and recording of services transactions between residents and non-residents in accordance with the sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual*; (b) additional details in those services categories of the 2010 Extended

Balance of Payments Services Classification which are economically important to the compiling country or area; (c) foreign direct investment (FDI) statistics by economic activity; and (d) main variables of foreign affiliates statistics by economic activity. For each of those core elements, the *Manual* recommends the inclusion of partner country breakdowns. For services transactions between residents and non-residents, partner country breakdowns are expected, first, at the level of services trade as a whole, and second, for each of the main services categories and for the additional economically important items in the 2010 Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification. For FDI and foreign affiliates statistics, the aim is to report partner detail both in the aggregate and for the major economic activities. In the second phase, further recommended elements could be implemented, namely, more details of the 2010 Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification, more variables of foreign affiliates statistics, the identification of trade between related and unrelated parties, the value of the international supply of services by mode and statistics on the number of natural persons covered by the General Agreement on Trade in Services mode 4 framework.

5. The initial strategy of the Task Force for the implementation of the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* was to closely assist in developing the compilation guide for the *Balance of Payments Manual* with respect to the compilation of trade in services statistics, gather good country practices and provide technical assistance in the context of a coordinated capacity-building programme. The Task Force strategy also included the development of additional compilation guidance for the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* on those issues which were not directly covered in the *Balance of Payments Manual* compilation guide, such as data collection and compilation issues for specific services sectors, including capturing data for partner country breakdowns and checking data consistency, as well as the compilation of foreign affiliates statistics and data on modes of supply.

6. Since February 2010, the Task Force has met four times (March 2010 in Beirut, October 2010 in Paris, March 2011 in Luxembourg and November 2011 in Paris).[1] The first of those meetings was devoted to resolving the remaining, mostly practical, issues of completion of the *Manual*. The other meetings were devoted primarily to the implementation programme, especially the development of compilation guidance. At the March 2011 meeting, the Task Force decided to produce a guide for compilers covering the full scope of the *Manual*, since the joint development of compilation guidance for the balance of payments services components was not feasible. The Task Force asked the Statistics Division to take the lead in the process, which would be supported by an expert group on the compilation of statistics on international trade in services established by the Statistics Division in cooperation with the Task Force. The expert group would consist of all Task Force members (therefore providing necessary guidance to the group on the work to be achieved) and national experts both from developed and developing countries. The guide is expected to be finalized in 2013. Further information on the mandate of the expert group is provided below and in the annex.

7. Although the compilation guidance for the *Balance of Payments Manual* and the one for the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* are

[1] Minutes of the Task Force meetings can be found at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/meetings-tf.htm.

developed through two separate processes,[2] the Task Force and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is a member of the Task Force, are making efforts to cooperate with each other by sharing, as much as possible, information on the progress made and by keeping the contents of the guides aligned as necessary. For instance, IMF reported on the progress made in the development of the *Balance of Payments Manual* compilation guide at the Task Force meeting in November 2011, shared the drafts of the chapter on services and of the annex on insurance services and invited the Task Force to provide comments. The Task Force confirmed that the compilers guide of the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* would be harmonized with and would refer to the compilation guide of the sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual*.

8. The Task Force is also working towards the harmonization of data on trade in services presented in international databases. This effort was initiated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Beirut in March 2010 and is supported by all the agencies of the Task Force. The work on data harmonization has accelerated in recent months and is expected to improve the exchange of information among international organizations and to have a beneficial effect on the quality and consistency of trade in services databases (data and metadata), as well as reduce the reporting burden on countries in their provision of data to international organizations.

9. The Commission recognized in 2010 that training was particularly important in trade in services statistics because of the methodological complexity involved. In that context, the Task Force members have organized or have been involved in training activities on the contents of the *Manual*, as well as on its compilation practices. The Task Force agreed in November 2011 to improve coordination in technical assistance and to make more efficient use of available resources. WTO was requested to coordinate this initiative. It was proposed to: (a) collect information on the capacity-building activities organized by the various international organizations in the field of trade in services and supplement this to the extent possible with information on activities organized by national institutes; (b) gather and maintain information on active and potential consultants in this field; (c) review the training tools that have been developed so far and investigate the possibility of improving or developing new training and capacity-development tools, such as e-learning; (d) maintain a catalogue of proposals for capacity development in trade in services statistics for the purpose of streamlining activities and improving transparency in such proposals for potential users; and (e) regularly update the Task Force on the achievements and results of technical assistance activities and publish relevant information on its web page, which is hosted and maintained by the Statistics Division.

10. At the same meeting, in November 2011, the Task Force discussed the process of developing the compilers guide and confirmed that an expert group on the compilation of statistics of international trade in services should be created to assist in the process and that countries be invited to make experts available. The first

[2] The drafting of the *Balance of Payments Manual* compilation guide is an IMF-led process under the general guidance of the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics, whereas the drafting of the compilers guide for the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* is a process led by the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services under the general guidance of the Statistical Commission.

meeting of the expert group will be held in New York from 28 to 30 March 2012, preceded by a one-day meeting of the Task Force. A draft outline of the compilers guide covering all topics was prepared by the Statistics Division and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and its main structure was discussed. It was decided that a more detailed annotated outline should be the main topic of discussion and decision at the first meeting of the expert group. Further details on the expert group are provided in section III below.

11. The geographical fragmentation of the production chains and its consequences on the measurement of trade statistics, discussions on which were initiated by WTO at a meeting of the inter-agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics in Beirut in 2010 and further developed by the Statistics Division and Eurostat within the context of the Global Forum on Trade Statistics (see section IV), were also discussed at the joint session of the inter-agency Task Forces on International Merchandise Trade Statistics and Statistics of International Trade in Services in March 2011. This and other trade-related globalization issues were addressed in the joint statement of the Statistics Division, Eurostat, WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and OECD on the future of international trade information systems (also called Vision 2020).[3] This document translates current user needs into a vision for the future development of official trade statistics.

III. Expert group on the compilation of statistics of international trade in services

12. The Commission urged the Task Force to set a time frame for the implementation of the *Manual* so that member countries could plan their implementation processes accordingly. In this context, the Task Force proposes the following actions and timetable with respect to the development of the compilers guide:

(a) In December 2011, the expert group on the compilation of statistics of international trade in services will be established to assist in the process of developing the compilers guide for the *Manual*;

(b) In March 2012, the first meeting of the expert group is scheduled to be held. The main objective of the meeting will be to review the annotated outlines of all chapters of the compilers guide and to propose the scope of the guide and the general content of each of the chapters;

(c) In May 2012, a revised annotated outline of the compilers guide will be finalized by the Task Force on the basis of input received from the expert group and will be circulated for worldwide consultation;

(d) The first set of draft chapters of the compilers guide will be prepared in mid-2012 and will be discussed in a virtual meeting of the expert group in the third quarter of 2012, and a second virtual meeting on further draft chapters will be held early in 2013;

(e) The second face-to-face meeting of the expert group to finalize the compilers guide is tentatively scheduled for June 2013.

[3] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/outcome.htm.

13. As mentioned above, a draft outline of the compilers guide covering all topics is already available. The outline determines the scope and content of the guide and will be — in a slightly more detailed form — the main topic of discussion and decision at the first meeting of the expert group. It is the group's task to review, comment on and give suggestions and country examples for the draft text of the compilers guide. The Task Force will report to the Statistical Commission on the work of the expert group and on the process of developing the guide.

14. The terms of reference of the expert group, which are contained in the annex, state that the Statistics Division will convene the expert group and will be responsible for the organization of its meetings. The Division will also be responsible for monitoring the timely delivery of intermediate materials in order for steady progress in the development of the compilers guide to be achieved. The Task Force will report on the work of the expert group to the Statistical Commission at its forty-fifth session, in 2014. The task of the expert group will be finished with the completion of the guide.

IV. Global Forum on Trade Statistics

15. The Global Forum on Trade Statistics was organized jointly by the Statistics Division and Eurostat, in collaboration with WTO and UNCTAD, and was held from 2 to 4 February 2011 at WTO headquarters in Geneva. It brought together close to 200 participants, including policymakers, economists, trade analysts and many statisticians. The Forum identified policy needs, especially the need for more detailed data on trade in services, and stated the research issues in the area of global value chains and trade in value added, and offered solutions on better linking trade and global business statistics.

16. Heads of offices from WTO and the United Nations, as well as leaders in trade analysis, research and statistics, gave their views on the most prominent and urgent trade issues and their corresponding data needs. From the policy perspective, it was stated that traditional boundaries of countries were disappearing because of the interconnectivity of the global production processes, the concept of country of origin had become questionable in terms of the value added of trade, and the distinction between goods and services was blurred. The main challenge was to measure the fragmentation of the global production processes, including all produced services, which should also cover the impact of trade on employment. The policymakers also pointed out that trade patterns had moved from country specialization in types of goods to intrafirm or network specialization in tasks, with the South greatly expanding production of manufactures. Furthermore, the changing patterns of trade and production had important implications for trade and industrial policies in the broader context of development strategies. Finally, the policymakers considered current statistical data to be deficient for international trade in services in terms of both analysis of such trade and their use by negotiators.

17. From within the statistical community, it was brought up that a better balance between the very detailed and well developed customs-based merchandise trade data and the highly aggregated and less developed trade in services data should be achieved. The challenge was finding a better way of collecting trade in services data. Furthermore, a shift in paradigm was needed to observe the economic activity not only from the perspective of the national territory but also from an international

perspective. Consequently, there was a need to link international trade with other economic statistics and with social, environment or energy statistics. Likewise, it was stated that the development of an integrated data warehouse linking trade with other economic statistics was the right way forward, that national authorities should strive to legalize institutional arrangements on cooperation in trade statistics and that the measurement of quantities, prices and volumes should be improved.

18. The Global Forum concluded with a vision statement[3] in which the participants identified three main areas for improvement:

(a) Relevance of international trade statistics, by connecting trade information and integrating it with its economic, social, environmental and financial dimensions while minimizing the response burden;

(b) Statistical production process, by better defining and organizing the cooperation among national stakeholders;

(c) International classifications and correspondence tables relevant for research on international trade and globalization, such as research on trade in value added, on global value chains and on outsourcing of business functions.

V. Conclusion

19. In response to the requests made by the Commission at its forty-first session, the Task Force brings the following to the attention of the Commission:

(a) The Task Force is developing a compilers guide and expects to finish it by 2013;

(b) The Task Force established an expert group on the compilation of statistics of international trade in services to assist in the development of the compilers guide;

(c) The Task Force and IMF confirmed their cooperation on the development of compilation guidance to keep the implementation of the *Manual* aligned with that of the sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual*;

(d) The Task Forces on International Merchandise Trade Statistics and Statistics of International Trade in Services noted the clear call from the Global Forum on Trade Statistics for more detailed trade in services statistics and for an improved significance of international trade statistics in issues of globalization. This could be achieved in part by linking trade data with other economic and social statistics;

(e) The Task Force initiated better coordination of technical assistance and capacity-building on statistics of international trade in services in developing countries and further development of statistical capacity-building tools;

(f) The Task Force accelerated its work to improve the exchange of data, which will ultimately have a beneficial effect on the quality, harmonization and consistency of trade in services databases (data and metadata) and will reduce the reporting burden on countries in their provision of data to international organizations.

20. The Commission is invited to take note of the present report.

Annex

Terms of reference of the expert group on the compilation of statistics of international trade in services

1. The expert group on the compilation of statistics of international trade in services has been established:

(a) To ensure active country involvement in the development of the compilers guide for the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010*;

(b) To review and endorse the draft compilers guide by 2013;

(c) To provide guidance on promoting the use of the compilers guide for the purpose of implementing the recommendations included in the *Manual* in the national statistical systems.

2. The expert group will be convened by the Statistics Division.

3. The Task Force will report on the work of the expert group to the Statistical Commission at its forty-fifth session, in 2014, including on the process followed in the development of the compilers guide.

4. The task of the expert group will be finished with the completion of the compilers guide by the end of 2013.

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Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session (see E/2011/24, chap. I.A), the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics, which is presented to the Commission for information. This report provides an update on the main activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force since the 2010 session of the Statistical Commission. The Task Force has achieved important progress in the preparation and dissemination of the *Public Sector Debt Statistics Guide* and the public sector debt database; proposals for the structure and timetable for update work on the *External Debt Statistics Guide*; enhancements to the Joint External Debt Hub; and countries' participation in the Quarterly External Debt Statistics database. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

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Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics

I. Introduction

1. The Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics,[1] established in 1992 under the auspices of the Statistical Commission, reconvened in 1998 to coordinate work to improve the data on external debt and international reserves, with attention to methodological soundness, transparency, timeliness and availability of data. External debt data help to assess the potential vulnerability of a country's financial position with other countries. A report on the work programme of the Inter-Agency Task Force was provided to the Commission for its meeting in February 2010. The present report provides an update on work since the last report and outlines the work programme agreed upon at the meeting of the Task Force, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London on 3 and 4 March 2011. While the work programme of the Task Force is challenging, it will continue to benefit from the cooperative, coordinated and sustained efforts of its agencies, which are key to its success.

II. Methodological work

A. *Public Sector Debt Statistics Guide*

2. During the March 2011 meeting of the Task Force, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) presented progress made since the previous meeting regarding the *Public Sector Debt Statistics (PSDS) Guide* (*PSDS Guide*). In August 2010, the draft *PSDS Guide* was posted on the Task Force website for worldwide comments until October 2010. In December 2010, the revised draft was sent to the Task Force agencies. The agencies agreed in co-signing the *PSDS Guide* to be consistent with the successful approach taken with the *External Debt Statistics Guide* (*EDS Guide*) and considered ways to actively promote the *PSDS Guide* after publication, including through workshops, seminars and other similar activities. The pre-publication version was posted on the Task Force website (www.tffs.org/PSDStoc.htm) in May 2011 and is subject only to final editing before publication in book form. The final version will be ready in December 2011. The *PSDS Guide* is aligned with the *2008 System of National Accounts* (*2008 SNA*).

B. Update work on the *External Debt Statistics Guide*

3. The IMF Statistics Department, in consultation with the Task Force, has initiated work on the update of the *EDS Guide* to take account of changes introduced by the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* (*BPM6*) and the *2008 SNA*. Changes proposed to the *EDS Guide* are identified in the paper "Update of the External debt guide on issues emerging from

[1] The Task Force on Finance Statistics is chaired by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and meets annually. It comprises representatives of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Central Bank (ECB), IMF, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Paris Club Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the World Bank.

BPM6" posted on the Task Force website (www.tffs.org/method.htm). These issues were approved at the March 2009 meeting of the Task Force. Overall, the *EDS Guide* remains largely consistent with the updated standards. Only a limited number of changes in *BPM6* will require changes in the methodological framework or clarifications of the methodological treatment in the *EDS Guide*. Therefore, the Task Force agreed on the update (rather than a rewrite) of the *EDS Guide*.

4. During the 2011 meeting of the Task Force, IMF presented for discussion a paper on the update work on the *EDS Guide*, in which proposals for the structure and timetable for this work were included. These proposals were agreed by the Task Force agencies, with a view to maintaining the overall structure of the *EDS Guide*, while limiting duplication of topics covered in other manuals and guides. The proposed timetable for the update work was confirmed. Key dates for this update work are: (i) the presentation of an updated version of Part 1 (Conceptual framework) at the 2012 meeting of the Task Force; (ii) the complete first draft version of the *EDS Guide* for worldwide comments in September 2012; (iii) the presentation of the revised complete version for endorsement by the Task Force at its 2013 meeting; and (iv) the completion of the prepublication version of the *EDS Guide* by September 2013.

III. Availability of debt data

A. Joint External Debt Hub issues

5. A number of enhancements to the Joint External Debt Hub (JEDH)[2] tables (www.jedh.org) have been implemented subsequent to the 2010 session of the Statistical Commission. The World Bank has been working with IMF to align the JEDH creditor/market table to *BPM6* by including both Special Drawing Rights allocation (debt liabilities) and Special Drawing Rights holdings (reserve assets). Other changes were made to the creditor/market table, including the addition of Paris Club claims broken down into aid and non-aid, and better identification of insured export credit exposures data provided by the Berne Union. The JEDH agencies (BIS, OECD, the World Bank and IMF) approved by e-mail exchange the update of table 1 of the JEDH Service Level Agreement (SLA) to reflect these changes. During the 2011 meeting of the Task Force, the JEDH agencies indicated that they would propose additional presentational changes to JEDH. These institutions are currently working on a revised version of the creditor/market table, which will be available in December 2011.

B. World Bank Quarterly External Debt Statistics database

6. Good progress is being made in countries' participation in the Quarterly External Debt Statistics (QEDS) database (www.worldbank.org/qeds). As of December 2011, 66 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) subscribers and the euro area reported data for table 1 (gross external debt position by sector — a prescribed SDDS category), 26 economies reported data for table 2 (foreign

[2] The Joint External Debt Hub website was launched in March 2006 to provide a one-stop source for comprehensive external debt statistics.

currency and domestic currency external debt position — an SDDS encouraged item), 12 economies reported data for table 3 (debt service payment schedule — an SDDS encouraged item) and 27 economies reported data for at least one of the six supplementary tables. In addition, 38 General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) participants have reported external debt position data for QEDS, of which 7 economies reported the gross external debt position data by sector (SDDS prescribed category).

7. After consulting with the Task Force agencies, and in line with *BPM6*, the World Bank has encouraged QEDS participants (both SDDS subscribers and GDDS participants) to report their SDR allocations as an external debt liability. The World Bank communicated with the QEDS correspondents to provide guidance for appropriate reporting of their SDR allocations and requested them to include an explicit reference in the QEDS metadata identifying any departure from the international standards. As of December 2011, 48 participants have included the SDR allocations in their total external debt position, including 34 SDDS subscribers.

C. Public sector debt database

8. To improve the international availability and comparability of public sector debt data, the World Bank and IMF, in coordination with other Task Force agencies, launched the online centralized public sector debt (PSD) database in December 2010 (www.worldbank.org/qpsd). The main purpose of the PSD database is to facilitate timely dissemination in standard formats of quarterly public sector debt statistics. By presenting such data in a central location, the database will support macroeconomic analysis and cross-country comparisons. The launch of the PSD database is one of the recommendations in the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative.[3] This initiative has been endorsed by the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and also by the IMF International Monetary and Financial Committee. Data requested are aligned with the *PSDS Guide*.

9. As of the end of November 2011, 35 economies have provided position data for the PSD database. The PSD database comprises quarterly data, mainly from developing/emerging market countries, on gross public sector debt position at nominal value. The following is the range of sectors for which quarterly data can be provided: (1) general government; (2) central government; (3) budgetary central government; (4) non-financial public corporations; (5) financial public corporations; and (6) total public sector. The database includes position data by both original and remaining maturity (short-term and long-term), broken down by instrument, as well as position data by currency of denomination (domestic and foreign currency) and by residence of the creditor (domestic and external creditors). The participation of countries in the PSD database is voluntary. The minimal requirement is reporting central government debt position data by type of instrument.

10. The World Bank and IMF will continue encouraging developing and emerging market economies to join the initiative. In consultation with other Task Force agencies, the World Bank, IMF and OECD will also invite other advanced

[3] See www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/102909.pdf. The public sector debt database is recommendation number 18 in the Data Gaps Initiative report.

economies to report existing data on the debt of the general government sector to the PSD database. The Task Force stressed the need for placing particular emphasis on avoiding duplication and inconsistencies with reporting templates that are required by other international agencies.

IV. Capacity-building

11. IMF conducted the fourth headquarters-based external debt statistics course from 29 August to 22 September 2011. These courses have been held every other year since 2005. Thirty-nine participants from all regions attended the course. As in previous years, the 2011 headquarters-based course benefited from the participation and expertise of staff from several Task Force agencies (BIS, the Commonwealth Secretariat, ECB, UNCTAD and the World Bank), as well as Government officials from the United States Federal Reserve Board and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. IMF also conducted public sector debt statistics courses and workshops in March 2011, primarily for G-20 economies (Joint Vienna Institute), September 2011 for formerly centrally planned economies (Joint Vienna Institute) and November 2011 for Latin American economies (Joint Regional Training Center for Latin America). In February 2012, IMF will conduct a course for African economies (Joint Partnership for Africa). Other Task Force agencies participated in these training activities.

12. The Commonwealth Secretariat and UNCTAD also provided support to countries in the production and dissemination of debt statistics, through conferences, regional workshops and country-specific activities.

13. In the past 12 months, the Commonwealth Secretariat has organized four training workshops at the regional and country levels on the compilation and dissemination of public debt statistics through the production of a comprehensive *Public Debt Bulletin*. Regional workshops on developing a *Public Debt Bulletin* were held in Singapore for Asia, and in Sierra Leone for the West African subregions, respectively. In-country training, *Public Debt Bulletin* missions were fielded to Dominica and Lesotho. During the same period, the Commonwealth Secretariat enhanced the functionality of its Debt Recording and Management System (CS-DRMS) software, to fully comply with the *PSDS Guide*. CS-DRMS has been further upgraded with easy-to-use links for reporting to the QEDS database. The link for reporting under the quarterly PSD database initiative will be completed for the next release of the software. Over the past year, CS-DRMS has been updated to provide countries with debt recording and reporting facilities, which are fully compliant with *BPM6*. To this end, a number of country-specific activities were undertaken to assist countries in developing comprehensive public debt databases in CS-DRMS by integrating domestic debt data with external debt data. These missions were carried out in Sri Lanka, India, Barbados and Cameroon. Furthermore, through the assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat, three states in India have established complete debt databases using CS-DRMS. During the reporting period, CS-DRMS data validation missions were fielded to Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis and Botswana. An eLearning program on external debt statistics and the use of CS-DRMS for more effective debt recording and reporting was commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat in 2010. This program has trained 75 country officials in more advanced use of the debt recording system and in external debt data standards.

14. Similarly, UNCTAD has conducted eight workshops related to debt statistics. Two debt statistics workshops were completed with Angola (July 2011) and Venezuela (December 2010). Two workshops on data validation, which provided for enhancement of debt databases and the foundation for the production of debt reports and statistics, were held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (March 2011) and Angola (follow-up workshop in August 2011). Two debt portfolio analysis workshops, which utilized the debt reports and statistics produced, were completed with Venezuela (December 2010) and Nicaragua (May 2011). A regional workshop on debt portfolio analysis was also held with the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa in Rwanda in August 2011, in which 19 officials from four countries participated. A training for trainers workshop conducted at UNCTAD headquarters in Geneva in February 2011 provided updates for 13 trainers on the latest developments in the areas of debt statistics, data validation and debt portfolio analysis. The Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme is also working on the second versions of its data validation and debt statistics modules.

V. Forward work programme of the Task Force on Finance Statistics

15. The main activities included in the 12-month work programme agreed at the March 2011 meeting of the Task Force are: (i) the updating of the *EDS Guide*; (ii) progress on the PSD and QEDS databases, and JEDH; (iii) potential discussion on the progress made on contingent liabilities; (iv) a private-sector debt paper to be prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat; (v) treatment of arrears in debt statistics, including conceptualization, sub-categorization, measurement and other related issues; (vi) promoting the work of the Task Force through its website; and (vii) the triennial review of the JEDH Service Level Agreement; the previous review took place in 2009.

VI. Next meeting of the Task Force on Finance Statistics

16. The member agencies of the Task Force on Finance Statistics will next meet in Washington, D.C., on 22 and 23 March 2012, at the IMF headquarters.

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides the Commission with comprehensive information on the status of the implementation of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), with specific emphasis on the status of survey implementation and an assessment of risks that could affect the overall results. The report has two main sections covering (a) governance, participation and financial status; and (b) status of implementation of the 2011 round and workplan.

II. Governance, participation and financial status

A. Governance meetings

2. To ensure that the work programme for the 2011 round proceeds as planned, meetings were organized by the various governance bodies and expert groups: the Executive Board; the Technical Advisory Group (TAG); the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Computation Task Force (CoTaF); the Validation Expert Group (VEG); and the Regional Coordinators.

3. The Executive Board held two meetings in 2011: its fourth meeting, on 20 February in New York, and its fifth meeting on 25 October in Washington, D.C. At those meetings, the Board reviewed the status of survey implementation and data validation and the risks faced by some countries in the first half of 2011. These meetings produced several major policy decisions. In particular, the Board:

(a) Approved the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group on the global linking method to be applied in the current round;

(b) Requested that a sequence of tests be carried out to derive products' quantitative weights from the importance indicators submitted by countries;

(c) Insisted that the timing of the release of regional ICP results must conform to the global ICP timetable so as to ensure that effective interregional validation would be completed before the regional results were published;

(d) Endorsed the use of each country's published national accounts data in the compilation of purchasing power parities (PPPs);

(e) Endorsed the ICP data access principles.

4. The Technical Advisory Group held its fifth and sixth meetings in Washington, D.C., on 18 and 19 April and 3 and 4 October 2011, respectively, to discuss methodological issues pertaining to the compilation of gross domestic product (GDP) expenditures, the approach for linking regional results to global results, the validation of prices, measurement challenges specific to the construction sector, and the treatment of reference PPPs. The Advisory Group recommended adopting the Country Approach with Redistribution for linking regional PPPs to global PPPs and agreed that a Validation Expert Group should be formed to review

the prices and PPPs underlying the global computation so as to ensure consistency between the global and regional comparisons.

5. In conjunction with the Advisory Group meetings, two sessions of the Purchasing Power Parity Computation Task Force were held. The Task Force supports the Global Office by ensuring that the results of the ICP 2011 round at regional and global levels fully comply with Board-approved methodology and processes. The Task Force agreed that four groups of experts would undertake the computation of global PPPs in parallel, and that the computation would be documented so as to ensure that the results could be replicated.

6. The first meeting of the Validation Expert Group was held on 7 October 2011 in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, the Group discussed and agreed on the required data inputs, and the procedures, modality and timing of the validation work.

7. The ICP Regional Coordinators and representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-Eurostat Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Programme met twice in Washington, D.C.: on 20 and 21 April and 5 and 6 October 2011. They discussed the status of implementation and the existing and possible risks faced by some countries, and agreed on the workplan for ICP field and desk activities related to collection and submission of data.

B. Country participation and risks

8. The number of participating economies has grown to 197 in the current ICP round, up from 146 in the 2005 round. This round covers 98 per cent of the world's population. Participation in all regions has increased, with 50 countries in Africa; 23 in the Asia and Pacific region; 10 in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); 17 in Latin America; 12 in Western Asia; 21 in the Caribbean; 18 in the Pacific islands group; 3 singleton countries; and 47 in the OECD-Eurostat PPP Programme, including 4 countries participating in two different regional programmes.

9. However, political and administrative, funding, and data quality risks may result in the deviation of countries from their original planning schedules or their non-participation in the round.

Political and administrative country risks

Africa

10. Eritrea has formally withdrawn from the ICP 2011 round. All statistical activities have been suspended in Libya, which, most likely, will not be able to participate fully in the programme owing to the political situation. The participation of Angola in the Programme is uncertain, since there has been limited or no contact with country authorities. However, efforts are being made to bring them on board through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) during the remaining month of the ICP round. Equatorial Guinea has yet to launch the household consumption price survey at the national level. The fact that the Sudan was divided in July into two countries (North and South) after the ICP 2011 round had already started is likely to result in a computational challenge. Further, there are

no plans for South Sudan to participate in the ICP round, although it will be allowed to participate in ICP workshops.

Asia-Pacific

11. Bangladesh deferred the collection of price data for household products to the second quarter of 2011 owing to the involvement of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in the conduct of the population census. Brunei Darussalam, Nepal and Pakistan conducted price data collection during the first quarter but, like Bangladesh, were unable to submit those data in time for the regional workshop as a result of their statistical agencies' involvement in conducting the population censuses. It is also possible that Sri Lanka and Pakistan will experience a slight delay in the second half of 2011 for the same reason.

CIS

12. In general, no risks have been identified that would affect ICP-related activities. At the beginning of this year, Uzbekistan planned collection of price data in 14 cities on a monthly basis. To date, Uzbekistan has not provided any additional information about ICP-related activities.

Latin America

13. Argentina has withdrawn from the Programme and some countries are facing internal difficulties which could delay the conduct of ICP-related activities or limit quality in respect of data collection and the corresponding metadata. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is monitoring this situation closely.

Western Asia

14. Some countries in the region are experiencing socio-political risks which could affect their ICP-related activities. Lebanon has officially withdrawn from the programme and the Syrian Arab Republic may also withdraw. Bahrain is facing administrative risks and it is possible that it will not provide price data for all GDP components.

Funding risks

15. Some African countries are experiencing financial problems in implementing ICP round activities, largely owing to delays in justifying earlier disbursements, as required by the African Development Bank. Many Caribbean islands may require additional funding in order to meet the requirements for ICP participation. Four countries of Western Asia — Iraq, Jordan, Palestine and Yemen — have also requested additional funding support. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the World Bank are exploring options for ensuring that ICP activities for those countries are sufficiently funded.

Data quality risks

16. There are two categories of data quality risks: survey framework compliance risks and validation and computation testing risks.

17. A review of the status of survey implementation in the first quarter shows that, from a regional or programme perspective, the number of countries collecting prices varies from month to month in many regions. From the country perspective, the fact that some countries are not consistently adhering to the terms of their initial survey frameworks, has led to differences in survey coverage from month to month. This could result in complications in respect of computing national annual price averages in countries, which would thus weaken price comparability across countries.

18. Delays in the submission of data by National Coordinators to their Regional Coordinators and, in turn, by Regional Coordinators to the Global Office are delaying the global core data validation. The Global Office expected to receive validated first-quarter data during the third quarter of 2011 but submissions have been delayed until 31 December 2011. Therefore, the validation of global core data will be delayed by at least three months. Moreover, the Global Office will not be able to start the experimental computations and testing of the 2011 global linking method until June 2012 when data from all regions and OECD-Eurostat are expected to be received.

C. Financial status and fund-raising activities

19. As reported in February 2011, the total budget for the ICP 2011 round (including regional programme budgets) is about 37.0 million United States dollars, of which a sum in the amount of 14.5 million dollars is managed by the Global Office.

20. The 2011 ICP Multi-Donor Trust Fund, established in 2010, has received contributions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The Multi-Donor Trust Fund provides resources to cover global activities (for example, development of tools and methodologies) and governance costs of the Technical Advisory Group and the Executive Board; the Fund also provides grants in support of regional programmes where budget gaps exist, for example, in Latin America and the Caribbean, CIS, Western Asia and, most recently, Asia and the Pacific. The World Bank also makes significant financial contributions to this programme from its administrative budget.

21. However, as mentioned above in paragraph 15 on funding risks, a budget gap remains for some regional programmes, as existing budget flexibility is not sufficient to meet rising costs. Budget shortfalls may amount to $1 million. Thus, additional fund-raising may be needed at the regional level.

III. Status of implementation of the 2011 round and workplan

22. The present section provides a brief survey of field and desk activities carried out at global, regional and country levels.

A. Collection of price data: main survey

23. According to the information provided in October 2011 by ICP regions and the OECD-Eurostat Programme, 155 countries had started a survey in the first or second quarter of 2011, out of the 197 countries initially identified as Programme participants.

24. In regard to first-quarter activity, regional reports indicate that 87 countries had submitted survey results out of the 102 that conducted price surveys during the quarter (excluding OECD-Eurostat countries). A regional breakdown of the number of countries that submitted data relative to the number of countries that had undertaken surveys is as follows: 44 out of 44 in Africa; 20 out of 22 in Asia and the Pacific; 17 out of 17 in Latin America; 5 out of 7 in Western Asia; and 0 out of 9 in CIS (excluding the Russian Federation, which also participates under the OECD-Eurostat Programme). Georgia, as a singleton country, also submitted its first-quarter data. In terms of intracountry survey coverage, 56 countries out of 102 indicated that they had conducted nationwide surveys in the first quarter, while the rest reported having carried out surveys only in urban areas or in capital cities.

25. ECLAC, as planned, submitted first-quarter data for participating Latin American countries to the Global Office. The Global Office is expected to receive regionally validated first-quarter and second-quarter data from the remaining ICP regions by 31 December 2011.

B. Other surveys

26. Guidelines, survey questionnaires and operational materials for technically challenging areas of the ICP programme (that is, those involving fast-evolving technology products, housing, water tariffs, private health, private education, compensation of government employees, construction and civil engineering, and machinery and equipment) were prepared by the Global Office and circulated to Regional Coordinators. The corresponding surveys have started in some countries and should be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2012.

C. National accounts-related activities

27. The Global Office prepared an Excel-based template of the Model Report on Expenditure Statistics to assist participating countries in compiling detailed expenditures for each basic heading of the ICP classification, documenting the splitting approach used and the underlying metadata, and providing the indicators used to estimate the expenditure values for a benchmark year (the latest year for which required data is available) and for reference year 2011.

28. All ICP regions have already provided their GDP aggregates for the latest available year, while disaggregated data for the 155 basic headings of the ICP classification are expected by 31 December 2011.

D. Capacity-building activities

ICP Book on Measuring the Size of the World Economy

29. The ICP Book on Measuring the Size of the World Economy presents the methodology available for international comparisons, the choices made for the ICP 2005 round, the outcome of those choices, and the steps to be taken to improve the quality of the data for the ICP 2011 round. To ensure the transparency of the estimation process, the ICP Book examines in depth the underlying theory, the methods used and the problems encountered. The Book also offers a forward-looking perspective on the methodology-related steps that can or will be taken to improve estimates in future ICP rounds.

30. Nineteen of the Book's 24 chapters, along with the foreword and executive summary, are currently available on the ICP website. Drafting of the remaining five chapters is under way, with many authors revising their work so that it reflects relevant decisions taken by the Technical Advisory Group or so that it accommodates the outcome of additional data analysis or research. The complete electronic version will be ready by March 2012.

Operational Guide

31. The Global Office is preparing an ICP Operational Guide which will provide practical guidelines and descriptive illustrations of methodologies. This work compiles existing operational materials and instructions which can improve the practitioner's understanding of recommended methodologies.

32. The Operational Guide will bring together all the operational materials developed by the Global Office and will ensure that the guidelines are clearly articulated and accompanied by examples that are hands-on in nature and reflect a comprehensive, in-depth approach.

ICP e-learning course

33. The Global Office is preparing an ICP e-learning course which will provide trainees with an up-to-date understanding of the ICP 2011 round so as to ensure that the results of the round are properly interpreted and utilized. The ICP e-learning course is designed to cover the broad topics that are the focus of ICP activities, including: the ICP framework, national accounts and the ICP, the price survey framework, comparison-resistant areas, data validation, PPP calculation and ICP software.

E. Outreach activities

34. As part of its ICP outreach activities, the Global Office continues to update the ICP website, is developing an ICP portal and publishes a monthly update newsletter. The ICP website provides comprehensive and regularly updated information related

to the implementation of the Programme while the portal would constitute both an online gateway to all ICP data and metadata, including global and regional results, and a resource centre which will cover all ICP papers and publications.

F. Data access

35. A paper entitled "2011 ICP data access and archiving policy: guiding principles and procedures for data access" has been prepared, with a view to improving access to more detailed data while respecting confidentiality constraints and data quality limitations. The proposed principles were endorsed by the ICP Executive Board.

G. Overall workplan

36. In spite of delays in data submission, the overall workplan remains effectively on schedule and the final results are expected to be released in December 2013 as originally planned.

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices

I. Purpose and organization of the Ottawa Group

1. The International Working Group on Price Indices, known as the "Ottawa Group", was formed in 1994 to provide a forum for specialists to share their experiences and knowledge and discuss research on crucial problems related to the measurement of price change. While theoretical issues are covered in the discussions, the Group focuses primarily on applied research, particularly, though not exclusively, in the area of consumer price indices. The Group examines advantages and disadvantages of various concepts, methods and procedures in the context of realistic operational environments, supported by concrete examples whenever possible. Participants are specialists and practitioners who work for or advise statistical agencies in different countries or international organizations. The Group initially met annually but now meets every other year, alternating with the joint consumer price index meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

2. The Group has a steering committee that ensures both the continuity and evolution of its activities. The steering committee comprises representatives of the agencies that host the Group's recent or upcoming meetings, together with others agreed to by the membership from time to time. A representative of the Australian Bureau of Statistics currently serves as Executive Secretary.

3. Meetings of the Group are divided into sessions, each devoted to one clearly defined topic, with a designated moderator who is also responsible for producing a summary of the discussions and noting any recommendations.

4. The host agency provides facilities for the meetings and arranges for the compilation of the proceedings, the papers presented and the most important elements of the discussions. The compilation also includes the Group's recommendations, when a clear consensus emerges from the discussion, or, if this is not the case, a summary of the varying opinions with a balanced commentary.

5. Copies of the proceedings and information about the Ottawa Group are available from the Group's website (www.ottawagroup.org). The agency providing secretariat services (currently the Australian Bureau of Statistics) is responsible for maintaining the website. The steering committee may also decide to edit and periodically release compendiums on selected topics whenever it is warranted by the status of available materials.

6. Researchers working for or advising national statistical offices have attended Group meetings. Among the countries represented are Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Representatives from international organizations such as Eurostat, the Statistics Department of the International Monetary Fund, ILO, ECE, the European Central Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have also attended.

II. Meetings

7. The Group has met on 12 occasions:

- Ottawa, 31 October-3 November 1994
- Stockholm, 15-17 November 1995
- Voorburg, the Netherlands, 16-18 April 1997
- Washington, D.C., 22-24 April 1998
- Reykjavik, 25-27 August 1999
- Canberra, 16-21 April 2001
- Paris, 27-29 May 2003
- Helsinki, 23-25 August 2004
- London, 14-16 May 2006
- Ottawa, 10-12 October 2007
- Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 27-29 May 2009
- Wellington, New Zealand, 4-6 May 2011.

8. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled to be held in Copenhagen in May 2013.

III. Recent activities

9. Since it last reported to the Statistical Commission, in 2010 (see E/CN.3/2010/25), the Group has met once, in May 2011, in Wellington.

10. Fundamental problems of price measurement, particularly at the micro level, continued to be raised at recent meetings. At the most recent meeting, the Group also considered issues such as housing and residential property price indices, new developments in calculation and weighting methodologies, developments in the use of scanner data, the intra- and international comparability of price indices and international comparisons. The Group continues to focus on the use of different techniques and procedures for dealing with changes in product quality (especially hedonic methods), increasingly complex pricing schemes (for example, discounts associated with the bundling of telephone, Internet access and cable television services) and the impact of new technologies. Sessions have been devoted to especially difficult areas for price index construction, such as financial and insurance services, health-care services, telecommunications services and housing.

11. At the Wellington meeting, the Group acknowledged the significant achievement of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics in the ongoing work on international manuals on price indices. In particular, the Group discussed the final draft of the *Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices*. The view of the Intersecretariat Working Group that these manuals (particularly the electronic versions) should be seen as "living documents" continues to be strongly supported by the Ottawa Group. In discussing papers at Ottawa Group meetings, participants

now seek to identify any advice concerning the manuals that might be passed on to the Intersecretariat Working Group for its consideration.

12. The Ottawa Group steering committee concurs with the descriptions developed by the Intersecretariat Working Group (see annex) of the respective roles of the Intersecretariat Working Group, the Ottawa Group and the joint ECE/ILO consumer price index meetings. The Ottawa Group steering committee consults with members of the Intersecretariat Working Group and organizers of the joint ECE/ILO consumer price index meetings to ensure the appropriate coordination of meeting agendas.

13. The point of contact for the Ottawa Group is:

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Annex

Roles of the joint Economic Commission for Europe/International Labour Organization consumer price index meetings, the Ottawa Group and the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

Joint Economic Commission for Europe/International Labour Organization consumer price index meetings

1. The joint Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)/International Labour Organization (ILO) consumer price index meetings provide a unique opportunity for national experts to exchange views and experiences in the area of price statistics and to identify good practices. The joint meetings are the only intergovernmental meetings on consumer price indices at a geographical level broader than that of the European Union. Moreover, they offer an important forum for the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics to discuss issues related to consumer price indices. The outcomes of the joint meetings are reported to the ILO Bureau of Statistics and the Conference of European Statisticians.

2. At the meetings, participants focus on issues that are directly relevant to the compilation of consumer price indices in national statistical offices. All steps of the compilation process, namely, the collection, processing and dissemination of data, are discussed, as are resource-related and organizational issues. Meetings are usually held every other year.

3. The meetings aim to foster discussion and make recommendations on good practices that can be implemented by statistical offices. The agenda is demand-driven in the sense that the organizing committee decides the items of the provisional agenda on the basis of proposals made by the country representatives at the joint meetings.

4. The joint meetings have been an important forum for the work on the international consumer price indices manual published in 2004 and for receiving feedback from countries on the revision of the electronic version of the manual.

5. In addition to discussing substantial topics at the meetings, participants in the most recent meeting, in May 2010, discussed the initial draft of the *Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices* and sought feedback. That meeting was preceded by a series of workshops covering topics on scanner data, harmonized consumer price indices, quality adjustment and seasonal products, and financial services.

6. The joint meetings are attended by between 80 and 100 participants, including experts from the national statistical offices of ECE member States and representatives of national statistical offices in Asia, Arabic-speaking countries, Africa and South America invited by ILO. Experts from other international organizations (the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, ILO and Eurostat) also attend the meetings, as do representatives from central banks, for example the European Central Bank, representing a main-user perspective. Some members of the Ottawa Group and the Intersecretariat Working Group also attend the meetings.

7. The joint meetings also provide a forum for conveying information to the Intersecretariat Working Group and other international bodies about activities, problems and needs in the compilation of consumer price indices in statistical offices. Reports and recommendations of the joint meetings, as well as proposals for future agendas, are submitted to the Intersecretariat Working Group.

Ottawa Group

8. The Ottawa Group on Price Indices, established in 1994, provides a forum for specialists to share their experiences and discuss research on crucial problems related to the measurement of price change. While the Group discusses theoretical issues, it also focuses on applied research, particularly in the area of consumer price indices. Participants are specialists and practitioners who work for or advise national statistical agencies or international organizations. The Ottawa Group reports to the Statistical Commission.

9. The Group aims to meet every two years. The meetings are attended by between 20 and 40 participants from statistical offices and international organizations, who are usually required to contribute a paper to participate in meetings.

10. The agenda is agreed by the steering committee, which at present consists of experts and representatives from the national statistical offices of Australia, Canada, Denmark (the host of the next meeting, to be held in 2013), the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and representatives from ECE, Eurostat and ILO. A representative from the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics attends whenever possible.

11. The Ottawa Group has played an important role in the theoretical and methodological development of price indices during the past decade. For example, the international consumer price index and producer price index manuals, published in 2004 and revised in 2008, benefited greatly from the work of the Group, which brings leading experts in price statistics together with practitioners from national statistical offices, providing a unique opportunity to discuss problems associated with the practical implementation of the recommendations. Practical problems, for example those caused by resource shortages, the lack of reliable data sources or time constraints, are also brought to the attention of the "theorists" for clarification or recommendations.

12. The fact that representatives of international organizations usually also participate in the Ottawa Group meetings helps to ensure that such organizations are up to date with the latest developments in the area of price indices.

13. A summary of each meeting of the Ottawa Group, including conclusions and recommendations, and copies of the papers presented at the meeting are available from the Group's website (www.ottawagroup.org).

Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

14. Based on a recommendation of the joint ECE/ILO consumer price index meeting, made at the invitation of the ILO Bureau of Statistics, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics was established in 1998 to coordinate work to

develop the international standards on price statistics. The Intersecretariat Working Group reports to the Statistical Commission.

15. According to its original terms of reference (see www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/guides/cpi/index.htm), the Intersecretariat Working Group should work to develop and establish international manuals on consumer price indices and other price statistics, in particular producer price and international trade price indices. It should also assist in the development of a framework for price statistics that is able to explain the links among various price indices and between price indices and other relevant economic and labour statistics.

16. The terms of reference of the Intersecretariat Working Group were revised in 2010 to take into account developments since the previous revision, in 2005. The objectives in the revised terms of reference are:

(a) To develop and maintain international standards and recommendations in the field of prices statistics and support their implementation in national statistical offices, which includes developing and maintaining manuals or handbooks on price statistics;

(b) To develop guidance on best practices where needed in order to improve the quality and international comparability of price statistics, be proactive in addressing new and upcoming issues and express its view on the importance and priority of problems and issues in the field of price statistics;

(c) To coordinate the work of international organizations in implementing best practices in manuals or handbooks on price indices, in sharing information on training and technical assistance and in using resources efficiently to avoid the duplication of efforts;

(d) To coordinate discussions of price index methodology at the international level, in particular the methodology used in the Ottawa Group on Price Indices and the joint ECE/ILO meetings on consumer price indices, and to ensure the necessary linkages with other relevant work, such as the work of the International Comparison Programme and the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics;

(e) To support the development of a framework for price statistics to explain the links among various price indices and between price indices and other relevant economic and labour statistics; one particularly important framework is the System of National Accounts, which provides an integrated and coherent system of economic statistics.

17. The Intersecretariat Working Group, which comprises ECE, ILO, the International Monetary Fund, Eurostat and the World Bank, is open to participation from interested and committed organizations, chairs of advisory groups on price index manuals and experts from national statistical offices, academia and international organizations. It may invite these interested parties to participate in its work programme. Experts from Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom participated in the most recent meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group, held in May 2011 at the time of the Ottawa Group meeting in New Zealand.

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Work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session (see E/2011/24), the present report is submitted, summarizing the main conclusions of the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, held in New York on 21 February 2011 and in Luxembourg from 7 to 9 September 2011, respectively. The Commission may wish to take into account the views of the Committee in its discussions under the relevant agenda items. Furthermore, the Commission is invited to take note of the report, in particular the proposed global inventory of statistical standards.

* E/CN.3/2012/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities held two sessions in 2011. The seventeenth session of the Committee was held in New York, on 21 February 2011, in the context of the forty-second session of the Statistical Commission, while the eighteenth session of the Committee, hosted by Eurostat, was held in Luxembourg, from 7 to 9 September 2011. Both meetings were co-chaired by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Henri Laurencin, Head of the Development Statistics and Information Branch of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies) and Eurostat (Pieter Everaers). The present report summarizes the main conclusions of the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee.

2. In addition to holding two annual sessions, the Committee operates actively between sessions through a network of task teams, following up on the decisions taken during the regular sessions. The established teams choose their own working arrangements and hold their own meetings, if appropriate. In this manner, concrete progress is made in the areas that are currently under discussion by the Committee, namely, the development of shared practices regarding human resource management, quality management, use of different data sources, the release of microdata and food security statistics. Also, the task teams work on specific coordination tools, such as reporting on technical cooperation activities, and elaborate tangible products such as the global inventory on statistical standards. All these areas of work will be further described in detail in the following sections. Task teams prepare documents on the progress and results of their work and report back to the Committee as a whole for decision-making at its regular sessions. As the secretariat of the Committee, the Statistics Division works closely with the co-chairs, facilitates communication among Committee members and prepares the reports of the regular sessions and the annual report to the Statistical Commission; it also maintains the Committee's page on the Division's website http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub-public/workpartner_ccsa.htm).

II. Membership

3. At its seventeenth session, the Committee considered the formal application for membership received from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The representative from the Office briefly introduced their statistical programme and expressed the commitment of the Office to the "Principles governing international statistical activities". In line with its terms of reference, the Committee's Secretary confirmed that the meeting had the necessary quorum of two thirds of the current membership of the Committee. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was then unanimously admitted to the Committee and welcomed by the co-chairs.

4. The Committee has now 38 members (see annex I for a list), 33 of whom attended at least one session in 2011.

III. Work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

A. Special session on quality and dissemination

5. In conjunction with its eighteenth session, the Committee organized a half-day special session on quality and dissemination, entitled "Best practices in communicating statistics: making statistics meaningful for users" and included presenters from within and from outside the Committee, namely, from Google and Bloomberg News. The special session was jointly organized by Eurostat and the European Central Bank and was chaired by the Deputy Director General of Statistics at the European Central Bank (Werner Bier). It was organized in two parts.

6. Part 1 focused on "Using websites as a communication channel" and featured presentations by Eurostat, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Part 2 focused on "Communication with frequent users and media" featuring presentations by Google, the European Central Bank and Bloomberg News.

7. The presentations and discussion looked at the theme of "making statistics meaningful for users" from different user perspectives. Organizations are increasingly making efforts to identify their various external user groups, their statistical needs and working processes as part of developing strategies to target those frequent users with tailored statistics. Some user segments could be easily identified through the official mandate of an organization, but most external users' needs are not fully known. It was stressed that communication of statistics to external users was indeed a two-way dialogue in which statisticians need to understand the user needs and producers needed to inform their users about the available statistics. Most organizations seemed to tailor their electronic dissemination or website to their core users' profiles and, with few exceptions, disseminate the data they produce themselves. There is a continuous challenge to make effective use of newly available technological tools. Issues such as different, competing sources for same data and different pricing policies applied in the dissemination of data were also mentioned.

8. The Committee acknowledged the importance of using websites as one of the main communication channels to external users. This also implies an active dialogue with the users on their needs and on the tools to support them. It would be beneficial to exchange such findings within the Committee.

B. Human capital

9. Following a special session on human capital, organized in conjunction with its sixteenth session, held in Vienna in 2010, the Committee had decided to establish two task teams for addressing the challenges in human resources management in the specific environment of international organizations. Task team 1, led by the World Trade Organization, was to explore the best possible ways for identifying talent pools and to review the relevant experiences in this field. Task team 2, led by the Statistics Division, was to work on training of international statisticians, staff exchange and mobility. Both task teams presented progress reports to the seventeenth session and more comprehensive reports to the eighteenth session.

10. With regard to the work of task team 1, the discussion at the eighteenth session focused on the following issues:

(a) While there are significant communalities in the work of international statisticians, there are also differences, resulting from the types and sizes of international organizations, with more specialized agencies requiring statisticians with a higher degree of subject matter specialization. In this context, the increasing importance of conceptual knowledge and of the ability to communicate and translate the information in understandable language was mentioned;

(b) When developing profiles for international statisticians, the group should not only focus on the entry-level position but should also look at a profile for statisticians with 10 years of career experience;

(c) The development of certain types or categories of profiles was considered to be helpful in facilitating mobility and the exchange of staff between organizations, which is increasingly promoted by organizations. In this context, the envisioned network of international statisticians was seen as a partner in the development of such profiles;

(d) Means of outreach to academia need to be further explored;

(e) The Committee should consider sharing its findings on the requirements of international statisticians at the next conference of the International Association for Official Statistics, to be held in Kyiv in 2012.

11. The Committee requested task team 1 to develop, in collaboration with the network of statisticians in international organizations, a selection of typical job profiles for international statisticians with a view to better communicating the work of international statisticians. Furthermore, the Committee requested the task team to develop some concrete proposals on how outreach and cooperation with academia and relevant training institutions could be improved.

12. With regard to the work of task team 2, the discussion focused on the exchange of information regarding existing staff development strategies. Currently, there are only a few staff exchange mechanisms and practices in existence. The Committee requested task team 2 to complete its analysis of training opportunities for international statisticians and make this information available on the Committee's website. It also requested the task team to document the successful practices and experiences of staff exchange and mobility, as well as the major obstacles. Furthermore, the Committee requested the task team to develop concrete proposals on how to expand such opportunities, especially by engaging relevant human resources units more effectively.

13. Both task teams are expected to report back to the Committee at its nineteenth session.

C. Establishment of a network of statisticians working in international organizations

14. The Committee established a task team, led by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to develop a structure and to examine the administrative, legal and financial aspects of a network among statisticians working in international organizations.

15. At its seventeenth session, the Committee endorsed the task team's proposal to establish an interim secretariat of the network, which is hosted by Eurostat, and to appoint a representative from the World Bank (Misha Belkindas) as project leader and coordinator. In addition to the secretariat and the project leader, the network continued to rely in its work on the reference group established before the sixteenth session of the Committee.

16. At its eighteenth session, the Committee considered a progress report prepared by the project leader and the secretariat. During the extensive discussion, some members voiced continued scepticism whereas others favoured a pragmatic approach of "just get started".

17. The Committee decided to entrust the co-chairs with nominating four key members of the reference group, who will be tasked to take forward the process, and with contacting Committee members to request that they publicize the network in their respective organizations in order to create an extended reference group. The Committee further decided that the moderators (as selected by the co-chairs) should set up a LinkedIn group, approach members of the expanded reference group and launch the discussion. The Committee also decided that the key members should consider options for a more formal structure for the group and report to the Committee, at its nineteenth session, on both of these items, at which point the Committee will reconsider setting up an International Statistical Institute committee as a possible means for the network. The Committee welcomed and accepted an offer by Eurostat to continue to provide limited secretariat support for the network.

D. Global inventory on statistical standards

18. At its forty-first session, held in February 2010, the Statistical Commission had given the Committee the mandate to develop and maintain an inventory of global statistical standards (see E/2010/24, decision 41/111). The Committee's project team, consisting of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Statistics Division, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, with support from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía), submitted a progress report to the Commission at its forty-second session (E/CN.3/2011/30).

19. At its seventeenth session, the Committee considered a concept note on terms of reference for the project to develop a global inventory of statistical standards, prepared by ECE, and the Statistics Division presented a prototype of the inventory. The concept note provided a detailed description of the outputs of the first phase of the project in terms of its coverage and scope, classification of standards, information content model, functionality, maintenance and platform. The 2008 System of National Accounts standard was used for demonstrating the prototype.

20. With respect to the initial scope of the inventory, the Committee decided to take a practical approach, focusing on standards adopted by relevant intergovernmental statistical bodies, key official methodological publications of Committee members and internationally agreed upon statistical classifications. Standards are sorted according to the classification of statistical activities developed for the Database of International Statistical Activities, maintained by ECE, whereby, in the interest of helping users to find relevant standards, it is possible to cross-reference a particular standard to more than one statistical area. Regarding the

information content for each standard, a basic model is being used to focus on key information elements for each standard, namely, full name, version, date of adoption and/or publication, previous versions, a brief description, details of the organization(s) that maintain the standard, statistical domain(s), type of standard, reference/link, language(s) (refer also to annex II). By limiting the information elements to the essential minimum and by providing, wherever possible, a link to the standard and/or publication itself and/or web pages that provide additional background information on the standard, it is hoped that the inventory can be maintained. A simple wiki platform provides the technical backbone for the inventory. It allows the user to search by keywords, statistical domains or organizations. The inventory will be developed in English only, at first. Bearing in mind the Statistical Commission's concern about access to multilingual information, an assessment of how multilingualism can best be realized will be made at the end of the initial phase. It should be noted in this context, that wherever language versions of the actual standard are available on the Internet, the links are already being introduced into the system. As a certain amount of domain-specific knowledge will be needed to maintain the inventory, a single administrator cannot be expected to follow developments in all statistical domains. For this reason an editorial board has been suggested that may be supported by domain editors, with expert knowledge in specific statistical domains. The Statistics Division will host and administer the inventory website, and other Committee members, as well as national agencies, are strongly encouraged to later refer and link to it.

21. At the eighteenth session of the Committee, the Statistics Division presented an advanced prototype of the inventory, which was being populated with 95 standards, contributed by 12 organizations. The Committee provided guidance on a number of specific technical issues and approved a timeline for the finalization of the initial version of the inventory. In particular, the Committee agreed that the inventory would be presented to Member States during the forty-third session of the Statistical Commission through a technical background document, as well as through a live demonstration during a side event. A proposal for a future governance structure for the inventory, based on an editorial board, will be presented to the Committee at its nineteenth session.

E. Statistical capacity-building activities of international organizations in developing countries

22. On the basis of a round-table discussion, the Committee, at its sixteenth session, had reached a consensus that despite the good progress achieved in coordinating statistical capacity-building activities since 2006, the issue was important and required continued attention. Therefore, the Committee had a more extensive discussion on issues of coordination of capacity-building activities at its eighteenth session, on the basis of a document prepared by the World Bank and the secretariat of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and an oral presentation made by a discussant from Eurostat.

23. The Committee welcomed the initiative to raise the visibility of statistical work in the context of development policy. In particular, the Committee provided comments to assist in the finalization of the proposed "Busan Action Plan for Statistics".

24. With respect to the development of effective reporting mechanisms for technical cooperation activities of international organizations, the Committee, at its seventeenth session, took note of a paper on the *Partner Report on Support to Statistics — PRESS*, presented by the secretariat of PARIS21. The paper outlined the experience of PARIS21 in developing a logical framework (logframe) and provided an overview of the logframe's content and objectives and identified indicators and lessons learned from the process. Eurostat presented an example of analytical use of the information contained in the PRESS report for 2010.

25. PARIS21 thanked the Committee members who reported and provided feedback to the 2010 PRESS round and noted, in that regard, that the exercise will be a good coordination tool only if information is provided by all financial and technical partners. Committee members were encouraged to respond to the 2011 round of PRESS as well as to the survey on the role of PARIS21 in supporting statistical development. Responses will assist PARIS21 in monitoring the impact of its work and in adapting its approach to better suit the needs of the Partnership. In this regard, the Committee members were informed that the newly added questions in the PRESS questionnaire for monitoring the progress with the logframe, namely, on coordination mechanisms and on alignment of aid with National Strategies for the Development of Statistics, will be collected also as part of the 2011 PRESS round.

F. Use of different data sources for the production of international statistics

26. In the context of its earlier discussion on the use of non-official data in imputations and/or estimations made by the international organizations, based on a report prepared by the World Trade Organization, the Committee had concluded that a new task team should be established, which, on the basis of existing work, would formulate best practices in combining different data sources for the production of international statistics, taking into account the issues of transparency of methods used, stability of data sources and quality assurance. This task team was led by ECE.

27. At its seventeenth session, the Committee took note of a progress report prepared by ECE in consultation with the task team. The Committee agreed that the paper was good but not conclusive, as the topic relates to many different processes in the practice of international organizations, which are partly administrative, political or analytical in nature. In this regard, the preparation of a set of guidelines on using different data sources for production of international statistics was thought by some members not to be feasible nor manageable. Instead, a development of case studies or focusing on specific areas of estimation was proposed.

28. At its eighteenth session, the Committee listened to an oral report by ECE and accepted the offer by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to take over the lead of the task team in the future. Given the continuing importance of the topic to some members, the Committee requested the task team to continue its work and report back to the Committee at its nineteenth session.

G. Dissemination of microdata by the international organizations

29. At its seventeenth session, the Committee took note of a paper prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, on behalf of the task team, on the topic of the dissemination of microdata. The task team had carefully analysed the existing principles and guidelines of good practices in managing statistical confidentiality and found that: (a) they address primarily the work of national statistical offices; (b) the operational aspects of microdata access in the context of international organizations have not been discussed as yet; and (c) the existing principles and guidelines for national statistical offices in the majority of cases can be reformulated to serve the purposes of international organizations, except in two cases, namely, the lack of a legal basis at the international level for defining access to microdata and the case of ownership over the data sets, which would require more detailed discussions by international organizations. The task team advised the Committee that it would be useful to have a debate in the Committee's forum on this topic.

30. Subsequently, the Committee, at its eighteenth session, took note of the oral report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, focusing on a questionnaire developed by the task team, which had been sent out for comments earlier and had been made available on the Committee's website. The Committee also warmly welcomed the United Nations Children's Fund to join the task team and accepted the Fund's offer to chair the task team in the future. The Committee requested the task team to finalize the questionnaire, continue its work and report back to the Committee at its nineteenth session.

H. Food security statistics

31. The Committee, at its seventeenth session, took note of an oral report made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on food security statistics. FAO informed the Committee about the initiatives that had been implemented for strengthening the food security information system at different levels and reiterated that there is a need for an increased role of the global statistical system in the development of an information system for food security and more proactive initiatives by the statistical units of international agencies in setting up the agenda of their respective organizations on this topic. In view of the global importance of food security, the Committee advised FAO that they may want to bring the issue to the attention of the Statistical Commission. At its eighteenth session, the Committee considered a more comprehensive document on standard setting and international coordination in food security statistics, prepared by FAO.

32. The Committee decided to establish a task team on food security statistics and asked it to contribute to a possible document for the forty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission, to be held in 2013, at which the Commission hoped to discuss this topic. The task team will be led by FAO. The task team was also requested to report back to the Committee, at its nineteenth session, with proposed terms of reference and suggested procedures.

I. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and the global statistical system

33. In accordance with a request, made during the sixteenth session, held in Vienna, to be more proactive and forward-looking in setting its future agenda, the Committee, at its seventeenth session, was briefed by the Statistics Division about the multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission. The Committee identified two ways to be more proactive in the future: (a) by formulating a common position on an item, already included in the programme; or (b) by proposing new items.

34. Eurostat briefed the Committee on the status of the work of the Friends of the Chair on the barriers to the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts, during both sessions of the Committee in 2011. At its eighteenth session, the World Bank briefed the Committee on the status of the current round of the International Comparison Programme. FAO briefed the Committee on the development of an action plan on improving agricultural statistics. The Statistics Division presented its work programme in support of the newly established United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. Other cross-cutting issues on which information was exchanged included the status of the current census round, the Busan Action Plan, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative.

J. Other issues discussed

35. The Committee, at its seventeenth session, took note of a report by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the first meeting of partners for statistical development in Asia-Pacific, which presented the outcome from the establishment of the first informal regional mechanism for donor coordination for statistical development. During the meeting, held in December 2010, the partnership was institutionalized. It had its second meeting as a side event to the eighteenth session of the Committee. In this regard, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific proposed to the Committee to allocate time in the agenda of its future annual meetings for a brief discussion on the issues of regional coordination.

36. The Committee, at its eighteenth session, took note of the information note on the Household International Migration Surveys submitted by Eurostat. The document was introduced by the author, describing the project proposal, which aimed to collect data in the MEDSTAT countries on the determinants and consequences of international migration, covering many aspects including out-migration, return migration, forced migration, migration of highly skilled persons, irregular migration, type and use of remittances, and the behaviour, attitudes, perceptions and cultural values of people with regard to international migration.

37. Also at the eighteenth session, the Statistics Division briefed the Committee on the forthcoming forty-third session of the Statistical Commission. Of particular relevance for the Committee was the announcement, that, after consultation with the Member States, the provisional agenda item on the "Principles governing

international statistical activities" had been postponed, for consideration after the conclusion of the review of the "Fundamental principles of official statistics", most likely in 2013 or 2014.

38. Furthermore, the Statistics Division invited the Committee to send any suggestions on how the Committee's website could be improved to the secretariat.

39. Regarding attendance at the meeting, the Committee noted with regret that the United Nations Development Programme was not present at the eighteenth session. The Committee asked the co-chairs to convey this regret to senior management of the United Nations Development Programme and urge them to attend the Committee's meetings in the future.

K. Administrative matters

40. The Committee thanked the two co-chairs, as well as the entire team for their effective leadership. Subsequently, Mr. Laurencin was re-elected as co-chair for a second term. In addition, Mr. Bier was elected the second co-chair of the Committee for the period 2012-2013.

41. The Committee agreed that its nineteenth session would be held in New York, on the morning of 27 February 2011, in conjunction with the forty-third session of the Statistical Commission. The Committee was pleased to accept the European Central Bank's offer to host the twentieth session in Frankfurt in September 2012.

Annex I

Members of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities*

African Development Bank

Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics

Asian Development Bank

Bank for International Settlements

Caribbean Community

European Central Bank

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Atomic Energy Agency

International Labour Organization

International Monetary Fund

International Telecommunication Union

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

EUROSTAT

Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Development Programme

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

United Nations Environment Programme

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

* As of November 2011.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Population Fund

Statistics Division

World Bank

World Health Organization

World Tourism Organization

World Trade Organization

Annex II

The information content model for the Global Inventory of Statistical Standards

Element	*Description*
Name	Full official name of the standard, plus any alternative names and acronyms
Version	The version of the standard (where applicable)
Valid from	Date on which the standard was adopted (or published)
Previous versions	References and links to previous versions of the standard
Description	Brief description of the standard, including objective, intended use and relationship to other standards
Organization responsible for maintenance	The organization or group responsible for approving and maintaining the standard
Statistical domain(s)	The domains in which the standard is used (according to the Database of International Statistical Activities classification of statistical activities)
Type of standard	Categories: (a) Concepts and definitions (b) Classifications (c) Methodologies and procedures (Note: other categories can be added as needed)
References	References and links to the standard and any other material that helps in understanding or implementing it
Language	Language(s) in which the standard is published
Information last updated/validated	The date on which the information above was last updated or verified to be correct

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Forty-third session
28 February-2 March 2012
Item 4 (i) of the provisional agenda*
Items for information

International economic and social classifications

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session (S/2011/24, chap. I.A). The report provides updated information on the work carried out under the auspices of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications. In particular, the report informs on the outcome of the meeting of the Expert Group in 2011 and its recommendations for future work and the organization of work, including an updated mandate for the Expert Group. The report also outlines the scope for the regularly scheduled update of the Central Product Classification. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

* E/CN.3/2012/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of main activities in the area of international classifications carried out since the forty-first session of the Statistical Commission in 2010.

2. The information in the present report covers the recommendations made by the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications at its meeting in 2011 and highlights the recommended update of the mandate of the Expert Group, as well as key activities undertaken or planned for the near future. The report also describes other recently completed work in the area of statistical classifications.

II. Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications

3. The Expert Group met from 18 to 20 May 2011 and discussed a wide range of classification issues, including the mandate and work arrangements for the Group, the review of product classifications and their impact on the Central Product Classification (CPC), the review of progress on other classifications, as well as classifications management issues.

4. Further details on the conclusions reached and recommendations made for each of the classifications covered at the meeting are listed in the final report of the Expert Group meeting, which is available on the Statistics Division website at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/expertgroup/default.asp.

A. Update of the mandate for the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications

5. The Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications was established in 1994 to develop a strategy for the convergence of international classifications. The Group has met at least every two years and reports to the Statistical Commission following each meeting.

6. Initially, the Expert Group's focus was on resolving the conceptual differences among the international economic standard classifications, which caused difficulty in integrating data into the national accounting framework. The initial work programme was focused on better alignment of the industry and product classifications. In 1995, the Commission agreed that the Expert Group's work should be expanded to include social classifications (E/1995/28, para. 46).

7. At its thirtieth session, held from 1 to 5 March 1999, the Statistical Commission recommended that the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications be the central coordinating body for implementing the work programme on economic classifications endorsed at that session of the Commission (E/1994/24, para. 108). The work programme set up in 1999 reflected the planned revisions of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and CPC as the main focus of the work of the Expert Group.

8. The Expert Group discussed its mandate in September 2009 in the light of the changing requirements of the Group, such as the demand for high quality international environmental classifications.

9. Following that discussion, the Expert Group agreed to establish a technical subgroup to review the governance and mandate of the Group.

10. The new terms of reference:

(a) Align with the earlier terms of reference specified by the Statistical Commission;

(b) Change the term "International Family of Economic and Social Classifications" to "International Family of Statistical Classifications";

(c) Change the name of the Expert Group on Economic and Social Classifications to the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications;

(d) Clarify the role of the Expert Group in relation to the International Family of Statistical Classifications;

(e) Clarify the role of the Expert Group for emerging areas of statistics;

(f) Continue to recognize the role of the Expert Group in supporting the Statistics Division and other international agencies in the development, maintenance, review and implementation of international statistical classifications.

11. The Expert Group recommends that the Statistical Commission continue to entrust the Expert Group with the functions identified at the thirtieth session of the Commission, including the review of selected new classifications for inclusion into the International Family of Statistical Classifications.

12. The new terms of reference for the Expert Group also establish a bureau, which is charged with maintaining the forward momentum of the group between meetings, providing the work programme and drafting agendas for future meetings of the Group.

13. The proposed updated mandate and terms of reference are set out in the annex to the present report.

B. Review of the International Standard Industrial Classification and the Central Product Classification

14. Following the previously agreed review schedule for ISIC and CPC, which was supported by the Statistical Commission at its earlier sessions, the Expert Group reviewed information and proposals for changes to these classifications to determine if updates or revisions to the classifications were necessary. Initial proposal for review areas had been submitted at the 2009 meeting of the Expert Group and a review of the full proposals was now undertaken to determine their potential impact.

15. As a result, the Expert Group reconfirmed its previous finding that no changes to the Implementation Guide for ISIC, Revision 4 (ISIC Rev.4) were necessary at this point.

16. The Expert Group considered the detailed proposals for changes to CPC, which arose out of several different areas, such as: (a) a regular assessment of the impact of the 2012 amendments to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), which forms the building blocks for sections 0-4 of CPC; (b) an assessment of the linkages between CPC and the Standard International

Energy Product Classification (SIEC), with a view to improve the comparability of the two classifications; (c) a proposal by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to adapt the detail of CPC in selected areas of agriculture and food products to allow for CPC to be used directly for data collection in agricultural statistics; and (d) feedback received on CPC issues in the Statistics Division Classifications Hotline.

17. After reviewing the different inputs provided, the Expert Group recommended that an update to CPC should be undertaken for 2012. This will be labelled as an update (CPC Ver.2.1), but not a revision, since it is restricted to some areas of the goods part only and involves only rearrangements or subdivisions at the lower levels (class, subclass) of the classification.

18. A technical subgroup has been established to consider all of the proposed inputs into CPC and discuss technical and procedural elements of the update. The detailed conclusions will be available as a background document to the Commission.

C. Other classifications work planned by the Expert Group

19. The Expert Group agreed on a number of additional projects to be carried out in the next two-year period. The larger projects include:

(a) The Expert Group agreed to form a subgroup to review the proposal for revision of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC). It should take into account the applications of BEC and consider primarily the links to classifications such as HS and CPC. Services should be included in the scope;

(b) The Expert Group agreed that guidance for the identification of core business functions and support functions (not necessarily a classification) in relation to their international outsourcing should be developed. However, it is not clear how to determine what the core functions within each sector are. Global sourcing has a high policy relevance and creates many measurement problems for statisticians. It would therefore be very useful to study this under some common guidelines. A subgroup will discuss how to approach this. It was agreed that, besides looking at relevant CPC products, guidelines were necessary on how to implement the business functions concept using CPC and determine its relation to ISIC;

(c) A review of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose will be undertaken. The use of the classification since its last revision in 2000 has resulted in a number of issues that may need clarification. In addition, areas that have undergone major transformations in the last decade, such as communication services, need to be reviewed to provide better guidance on how to reflect them in the classification. A technical subgroup will review these issues and recommend whether changes to classification itself or just additional clarifications, such as revised explanatory notes, are necessary;

(d) The revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) includes a number of classifications that should be further reviewed. At the time of writing of the present report, final drafts of the classifications were not yet available. The Expert Group therefore will consider these classifications once they are finalized, that is, in 2012, to validate them against existing classifications

criteria and consider their inclusion in the International Family of Statistical Classifications;

(e) A new assessment of national classifications will be undertaken, with the particular view of updating information on the implementation of ISIC and CPC in national contexts, but also considering classifications in other domains.

20. Information on other work planned by the Expert Group is available in the report of the Expert Group meeting in 2011.

21. While the Expert Group is committed to supporting the development of international statistical classifications by all custodians, as mandated by the Statistical Commission, the Group faces a major challenge in getting timely information about new developments undertaken by international or regional institutions. The need for new classifications in emerging areas leads to many attempts at creating such classifications by different stakeholders at the international and regional levels. To ensure that the Expert Group can assist these stakeholders in the development work — for instance, by reviewing classifications criteria or links to existing classifications — and work towards the inclusion of these classifications in the International Family, stakeholders should be more encouraged to inform the Expert Group about any plans for developing new international classifications or revising existing ones.

III. Other developments in international classifications

Activities carried out by the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

22. Over the past two years, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics has completed a major revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), of which UNESCO is the custodian. The revision was commissioned at the thirty-fourth session of the General Conference of UNESCO member States in November 2007 and was formally adopted by the thirty-sixth General Conference in November 2011.

23. ISCED 2011 is the result of extensive consultation of international, regional and national experts in education and statistics, including a global consultation in 2010. Detailed proposals for the revision were developed in collaboration with the Institute's education data collection partners, Eurostat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the members of the ISCED Technical Advisory Panel established at the end of 2008 to oversee the revision.

24. The first proposals were discussed in separate regional meetings of experts from the Arab States, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa in 2009 and 2010. Discussions on the proposals also took place over this period with national experts attending meetings on education statistics held by Eurostat and OECD, and at other international and regional conferences, including the World Conference on Higher Education, held in June 2009. In addition, the early proposals were presented and discussed at a meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, in September 2009.

25. The initial proposals were revised in the light of feedback from the regional and international experts consulted and a global consultation on a draft ISCED 2011 text was launched in June 2010.

26. All member States of UNESCO — including ministries of education and, with the assistance of the United Nations Statistics Division, all national statistical offices — were invited to comment. The proposals were also sent to members of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, members of the ISCED Technical Advisory Panel, national and regional experts who were invited to the regional meetings on ISCED in 2009 and 2010, and relevant international agencies. The feedback of national contacts responsible for submitting data on education, literacy or educational attainment to the Institute or its education data collection partners was also sought.

27. Over 110 responses were received from more than 80 countries. The responses were largely supportive of the revision. All substantive comments and suggestions were reviewed by the editorial subgroup of the Technical Advisory Panel in December 2010 and by the full Panel at its final meeting in February 2011, and the draft text was revised accordingly.

28. Following the adoption of ISCED 2011, the Institute and its data collection partners (Eurostat and OECD) are beginning to work with countries to map their education systems to the new classification and revise data collection instruments accordingly. An operational manual is currently under preparation and is expected to be available in mid-2012. Additional training materials will also be developed. In accordance with new governance procedures, mechanisms for peer reviews of ISCED mappings will be established, and an ISCED advisory committee will be formed. The first international data collections based on the new ISCED will begin in 2014 to give countries adequate time to adapt their national data reporting systems. The implementation of the new ISCED in household surveys and censuses may not occur until 2015.

29. Finally, a revision of the ISCED fields of education and training was commissioned at the thirty-sixth session of the General Conference of UNESCO member States. Work is expected to begin on this in late 2011 or early 2012, with a view to adoption in 2013. It is proposed that the fields of education will eventually be treated as an independent, though related, classification alongside ISCED.

Establishment of the Working Group on Classifications for member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

30. The Working Group on International Classifications for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) region has been established with the aim of promoting the implementation and use of the new versions of international standard classifications, such as ISIC, CPC or the International Standard Classification of Occupations, in the region and assist countries in their implementation and application in order to contribute to the development of official statistics in the various statistical programmes.

31. The establishment of the Working Group and the terms of reference of the Group were approved at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in November 2011. The key actions of the Working Group are to:

(a) Identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to boost the capacity of member countries in the processes of adopting and adapting international classifications;

(b) Exchange and document experiences, knowledge and good practices in relation to the implementation of international classifications;

(c) Provide regular updates on the progress made in terms of new revisions to international classifications, particularly with a view to conducting economic and population censuses and changing the base year for national accounts in the countries of the region, as well as ensuring the proper management of directories of businesses and establishments;

(d) Promote the creation of inter-agency platforms for collaboration in, and coordination and integration of, regional initiatives on international classifications among blocks of countries;

(e) Prioritize the translation into Spanish of texts on international classifications to enable their timely adoption by the countries of the region;

(f) Make the arrangements necessary to hold meetings of the Working Group on International Classifications, with a view to promoting the use and dissemination of economic and social Classifications;

(g) Promote the establishment of a network of experts on international classifications to provide countries with mechanisms for communication and updating of classifications.

32. The National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico has performed the role of coordinator of the initiative committee for the establishment of the Working Group on International Classifications for the ECLAC region.

33. The establishment of such a group to assist countries at the regional level could be a model also to be considered in other regions.

Work on classifications for fishery statistics

34. The Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics was established in 1959 under FAO as a coordinating mechanism to keep under continuous review the requirements for fishery statistics, to agree standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics and to make proposal and recommendations for action in relation to the collection, collation and dissemination of fishery statistics. The Working Party is currently composed of 19 regional and global intergovernmental organizations that have relevance in collection and collation in fishery statistics and is currently responsible for maintaining the international classification and definition of fishing areas (FAO major areas) and the international standard statistical classifications of fishing gear, fishing vessels, fishery commodities and aquatic animals and plants.

35. Following the decision at its twenty-third session, held in February 2010, the Working Party is now in process to review and revise its handbook, with a special focus on expansion of data collection and collation in the aquaculture sector, the revision of the fishing gear classification, the enhancement of the social and economic component and the introduction on ecosystem monitoring as well as the monitoring of impacts on ecosystems. The entire revision process is expected to be

completed at the twenty-fourth session of the Working Party, in 2013, with the first review of progress and the draft to be held in December 2011.

Revision of the trial International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics

36. Following a request by the Statistical Commission in 1995 to prepare a draft classification of time-use statistics, the United Nations Statistics Division developed of a draft classification in consultation with experts and relevant stakeholders. Two expert group meetings were convened (1997 and 2000). A first version of the draft classification was issued in 1997 to assist countries interested in conducting time-use studies. Based on the experience of the first countries that have used or adapted the 1997 classification, a revised and more elaborated version was issued and published in the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*[1] (2005) as the United Nations trial International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS).

37. To date, several countries and areas have adapted the trial ICATUS (either the first or current version) for use in their data collection and in tabulation and analysis, including Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Countries have shared their experience, concerns and questions on the trial classification and have requested the Statistics Division to update and finalize the trial ICATUS and ensure its harmonization with other classifications, including the Harmonized European Time Use Survey.

Work of the Economic Commission for Europe on crime classification and time-use classification

38. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Task Force on Crime Classification was created in October 2009 by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians to develop a set of principles on international crime classification systems for statistical use, and conduct a case study of selected offences.

39. In November 2011, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians reviewed the work carried out so far by the Task Force, which included a report prepared by the Task Force on the principles and framework for an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes. A proposed revised terms of reference of the Task Force extends its mandate by approximately two years, with a view to developing a full international classification of crimes for statistical purposes.

40. The work of the Task Force is carried out in close collaboration with Eurostat and the European Commission, which in 2008 had started working on a European crime classification system for statistical purposes. The work of the Task Force, composed mainly of experts from the national statistical offices of the Conference of European Statisticians countries (including Australia, Brazil, Canada and the United States of America), ensures that the work on the crime classification is conducted in the framework of official statistics, and that the experience and contribution of countries from different regions is taken into consideration.

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XVII.7.

41. The ECE Task Force on Time-Use Surveys is scheduled to provide by the end of 2012 guidance on better harmonization of time-use surveys. The activities include examining the existing classifications and a final report is expected to include proposals on streamlining the classifications.

Annex

Mandate of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications

1. The Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications was charged by the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session, held from 1 to 5 March 1999, with improving cooperation on international classifications and ensuring harmonization and convergence among classifications in the International Family of Statistical Classifications (E/1999/24, chap. VII).

2. The International Family of Statistical Classifications is comprised of those classifications that play a role as standard classifications in individual or multiple statistical domains and have been reviewed and approved as guidelines by the Statistical Commission or another competent intergovernmental body on such matters as economics, demographics, labour, health, education, social welfare, geography, environment and tourism.

3. The Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications will continue to be the central coordination body for the current and future work on classifications that are the responsibility of the Statistics Division, and for the coordination and review of other classifications that are the responsibility of other international organizations and that have been proposed for adoption by the Statistical Commission.

4. The Expert Group will continue to work towards ensuring harmonization and convergence in the development of the classifications within the International Family of Statistical Classifications. To ensure coordinated revisions within the Family, the Expert Group will continue to develop and progress strategies for the coordination and timing of revisions within the Family. Where a standard classification has changed, the Expert Group will encourage and assist custodians of other classifications to adopt the changes that reflect those made in the standard classification.

5. The Expert Group will establish long-term strategies for the further development of international classifications. It will be concerned primarily with requirements imposed on classifications arising from statistical applications, but may also take into consideration the requirements arising from non-statistical applications of the classifications. These applications include censuses, surveys and administrative activities in areas applicable to these classifications, analytical work requiring linkages between classifications, as well as requirements for policy decisions.

Terms of reference

6. A key function of the Expert Group is to assist and advise the Statistical Commission in:

(a) Promoting the adoption of best practices in the development of international classifications;

(b) Coordinating work on those standard classifications that are members of the International Family of Statistical Classifications, including examining changes

to classifications and clarifying their relationship to other international classifications;

(c) Promoting the adoption of the standard classifications of the International Family of Statistical Classifications within regional and national statistical systems to improve the international comparability of data;

(d) Assessing the appropriateness of requests for inclusion of classifications into the International Family of Statistical Classifications as standard classifications;

(e) Ensuring that the various classifications are suitable for use in the range of statistical activities in which they are to be applied and that they promote conceptual and methodological coherence in the statistical system, as well as reflecting practical considerations in data collection and compilation;

(f) Developing a strategic approach towards the future development of the International Family of Statistical Classifications.

7. The tasks of the Expert Group include advising on classification best practice principles; reviewing the concepts and principles of existing and emerging international classifications; facilitating the harmonization of related classifications; reviewing classifications against the criteria for inclusion in the International Family; and facilitating or undertaking classification reviews where appropriate. The Expert Group will also provide guidance to the Statistics Division and other custodians of international standard classifications on technical matters of classification revisions or development, as well as strategic planning for classifications work, if so requested.

8. The Expert Group will decide whether certain technical, analytical or exploratory tasks should be carried out by a suitable subgroup of the Expert Group. If the creation of a subgroup is warranted, the Expert Group will specify the goals and, if applicable, the lifespan of these subgroups. The subgroups should report back to the Expert Group for evaluation of their tasks and approval of their findings or decisions.

Items considered

9. The Expert Group considers issues of concern in developments in international classifications, best practices in developing classifications, implications of reviews on time-series, context and requirements imposed on classifications arising from statistical applications and strategies for implementing international classifications. In addition, the Expert Group may also choose to consider the requirements of classifications imposed from non-statistical applications. The Expert Group should also consider and provide guidance and support for the development of associated elements of classifications such as correspondences, companion guides and coding tools.

10. For new classifications, the Expert Group should confine its discussions, where possible, to the application of best practices in their development. The Expert Group should not consider decisions made on the subject matter by other expert groups unless it is related to ensuring the harmonization and convergence of classifications or to avoid the further proliferation of classifications.

11. Within the terms of the above resolutions, there is flexibility for the Expert Group to adjust, where necessary, its priorities and methods to meet new requirements and maintain a balance between matters of current concern and the longer-term development aspects of the official statistical system.

Convener

12. The Statistics Division will continue to be the convener of the Expert Group and will, to the extent possible, provide funds for the participation of developing countries.

Membership

13. The Statistics Division will continue to invite representatives from international organizations, developed and developing countries, custodians, major users of international statistical classifications and individual experts in the development and application of international classifications to become members of the Expert Group. To ensure a balanced view and consistency in discussion of all classification matters, the membership of the Expert Group will take into account balanced regional representation, as well as continuity in membership over consecutive periods.

14. The members of the Expert Group should be experts in the development and application of classifications, as well represent national and regional experiences in the application of the International Family of Statistical Classifications.

15. The Expert Group and its subgroups can invite guest experts to discuss topics that require a more specialized or broader knowledge in certain areas, without making these guests members of the Expert Group.

Term of office

16. Members of the Expert Group will be invited by the Statistics Division to participate in Expert Group discussions for a period of two years.

Frequency of meetings

17. The Expert Group should meet biennially or more frequently if required by the work programme.

Reporting

18. The work programme, decisions and recommendations of the Expert Group will be submitted to the Statistical Commission through the report of the Secretary-General on economic and social classifications, prepared by the Statistics Division.

Bureau of the Expert Group

19. The Expert Group will elect a bureau, which will distribute tasks, carry out day-to-day management and act as a bridge between Expert Group meetings. The Bureau will not have any decision-making authority beyond those necessary to undertake its administrative roles. The Expert Group will also elect the Chair of the Bureau.

20. A bureau is elected for a two-year period or until the next Expert Group meeting. Nominations are made by member(s) of the Expert Group. Elections are held at the beginning of a session.

21. The Bureau will communicate electronically and will hold virtual meetings as necessary.

Secretariat support and other participants

22. The sessions of the Expert Group are substantively serviced by the Statistics Division and may be attended by the regional commissions, other United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and related organizations, non-United Nations international organizations active in international statistical work and non-governmental organizations.

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Items for information: development indicators

Development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session (see E/2011/24, chap. I.B). The report outlines the activities carried out by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division, as mandated by the Commission, to: (a) develop tools and methodology for country-level assessment of progress in the Millennium Development Goals; (b) provide training and technical assistance to countries on indicators to monitor the Millennium Development Goals and on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange standards for Millennium Development Goals indicators; and (c) resolve differences between national and international data sets and improve coordination of data reporting and monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. The report further contains an assessment of data availability to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and describes the preparation of the yearly progress reports on progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission is invited to comment on progress made by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and its future direction of work.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report outlines the work undertaken by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and to provide training to countries on national and subnational monitoring.

2. Activities were undertaken by the Statistics Division to address the requests by the Statistical Commission to: (a) develop tools and methodology for country-level assessment of progress; (b) conduct training initiatives on indicators to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals monitoring, including at the subnational level; (c) reconcile national and international data on Millennium Development Goals indicators and improve national coordination of monitoring and reporting; and (d) promote and facilitate the use of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for Millennium Development Goals indicators as an important tool for improving coordination and reporting on the Goals, including providing training to countries that wish to adopt the platform.

3. The work by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division in its role as coordinator of the Group continues to be guided by the principles contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity, including: (a) improving the coverage, transparency and reporting on all indicators; and (b) supporting national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity, while promoting countries' full ownership of monitoring data.

II. Developing tools for country-level assessment of progress

4. In order to address the requests by the international community and the United Nations system on information on countries' progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, the Statistics Division has developed the Millennium Development Goals Country Progress Snapshot, a tool for country-level assessment. The country progress snapshots provide a summary overview of the progress achieved since 1990 on the Millennium Development Goals at the country level.

5. The snapshots are intended mainly to provide the international community easy access to the information and are not meant to replace in any way the country profiles produced at the national level in several countries. They are also meant to reflect the contribution of country-level progress to the global and regional trends on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Finally, the snapshots address the need raised by many countries to have access to a simple method for the assessment and presentation of national progress when this is not easily available in the country.

6. For each country, the snapshot shows the levels and trends of the progress achieved for 17 selected targets under the eight Millennium Development Goals. It also compares the country progress level with the regional average progress level. The data used in the snapshot are from the Millenaium Development Goals indicators database (http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx), which are provided to the Statistics Division by the responsible agencies.

7. The analysis is undertaken by the Statistics Division using methodologies developed in collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group. Since the Millennium Development Goals were defined as global goals, the snapshots move away from the language of on track/off track used to express progress towards the achievement of the Goals at the regional and global levels.

8. The snapshots for all countries and territories in the developing regions and the regional progress charts summarizing the countries' performance in the region are available on the Millennium Development Goals website (http://mdgs.un.org). The technical notes on the methodology used for the assessment are also on the Millennium Development Goals indicators website.

9. The publication of country progress snapshot might highlight the existence of discrepancies between national and international data, which can be due to timing, differences in methodology or the use of international estimates when national data are not available. Improving the coordination between countries and international agencies, as well as making the indicators metadata widely available, should help to reduce the discrepancies.

10. Some of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group members have also developed tools and methodology for assessing progress at the country level. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has developed a web-based Millennium Development Goals country profile for each country in the region. The country profile is a graphic interface of data, figures and social, economic and environmental indicators that shows the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals at the country level. The profile also includes a radar chart showing the degree of compliance with the targets. The United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) has produced Millennium Development Goals country profiles for internal use to monitor progress made on the Millennium Development Goals targets related to children and women.

III. Promoting the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Millennium Development Goals indicators

11. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group has devoted increased attention to ensure the achievement of the desired levels of consistency and transparency in reporting and presenting data and metadata for international monitoring. The Group identified the SDMX as a good technical solution to facilitate data and metadata exchange and improve transparency in data reporting. It has continued to promote the implementation of the SDMX standards for Millennium Development Goals indicators for reporting within national statistical systems and to the international statistical system.

12. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the African Development Bank, organized a regional workshop on the use of SDMX for Millennium Development Goals monitoring in Amman, from 10 to 13 July 2011. The workshop provided hands-on training on the use of SDMX for Millennium Development Goals indicator data and metadata exchanges and training on transforming existing Millennium Development Goals databases stored on the DevInfo platforms into SDMX format for data reporting. In addition, the workshop recommended strategies for a better

coordination within national statistical systems and between the national and international systems.

13. The workshop helped participants to understand the benefits of using SDMX in national and international data and metadata reporting, including: a reduction of data discrepancies, budgetary savings; a reduction of the reporting burden; and improved coordination within the national statistics systems. Countries expressed their willingness to adopt the standard for Millennium Development Goals data and metadata exchanges, but requested the Statistics Division and ESCWA to organize additional training for national statistics offices and line ministries to strengthen SDMX skills. In particular, it was requested that an international workshop be organized where countries that are more advanced in the use of SDMX for Millennium Development Goals data and metadata exchanges could share their experiences with countries that are planning to adopt the new platform. Many countries also supported the idea of using a SDMX interface on the DevInfo platform for those countries that have their Millennium Development Goals data already stored in DevInfo.

14. Using the lesson learned from the workshop, the Statistics Division will tailor the training materials to adapt them to the needs of developing countries in other regions, and will incorporate these materials in upcoming workshops on using SDMX for Millennium Development Goals data reporting.

15. The Millennium Development Goals data structure definition developed by the task team on SDMX has gone through a number of tests during the past few years. The results of the tests highlighted the existence of shortcomings in the first version of the data structure definition, such as duplications, the lack of comprehensive definitions and explanations, and a few errors. The Statistics Division undertook a full revision of the Millennium Development Goals data structure definition to tackle its shortcomings and improve its functionality, as well as to upgrade it to the SDMX version 2.1. The revised data structure definition was presented at the twentieth session of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group meeting, held in Manila in October 2011. After consultation with the members of Inter-Agency and Expert Group and incorporation of their inputs, the updated Millennium Development Goals data structure definition will be publicly available on the Millennium Development Goals indicators website.

16. Some of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group members are also currently working on promoting the use of SDMX. For instance, a useful tool published by the World Health Organization (WHO) provides online training courses on SDMX-HD (health domain). The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has developed the UNAIDS indicator registry, which allows users to be notified when changes are made, to reference back and to connect to the UNAIDS database for updates.

IV. Improving Millennium Development Goals monitoring

17. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group has continued to review countries' needs and identify priorities for improving countries' capacity to produce Millennium Development Goals indicators and conduct national monitoring. In 2011, the members of the Group have embarked on a number of activities to improve the availability and quality of data for Millennium Development Goals indicators by

improving access to the metadata and guidelines for the production of the indicators and by providing training workshops and programmes with the aim of helping countries to strengthen their statistical capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate data to monitor development.

18. The Statistics Division has continued to address the request by countries to provide training on the indicators with the objective of improving data availability and quality at the national and international levels and, at the same time, understanding and resolving differences between the national and international data sets.

19. The sixth Regional Seminar on Indicators to monitor the Millennium Development Goals in Latin American and Caribbean countries is scheduled to take place in Mexico City, on 1 and 2 December 2011. It is co-organized by ECLAC and the Mexican National Institute for Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and will be attended by the directors of all the national statistical offices in the region, representatives of regional entities, and experts from international agencies responsible for the Millennium Development Goals indicators, including the Statistics Division, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF and WHO.

20. As part of the second round of training activities on Millennium Development Goals monitoring, the Statistics Division is also organizing, in collaboration with ESCAP, a workshop for Asian and Pacific countries, to be held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 June 2012. The workshop will focus on methodological issues for the calculation of the Millennium Development Goals indicators. The focus of the workshop will be maternal and child mortality and reproductive health indicators. The new version of the Handbook on Millennium Development Goals Indicators is expected to be launched during the workshop. The workshop will be attended by the country representatives from national statistical offices and health ministries and experts from WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, the Statistics Division and the Population Division of the Secretariat.

21. Addressing the request by the Commission to identify experts who can provide assistance, upon the request of countries, to resolve specific Millennium Development Goals data-related issues, the Statistics Division has created a list of contacts for each of the Millennium Development Goals indicators of experts from the partner agencies. The experts are the ones responsible for the data compilation and metadata development on the indicators in their respective areas of responsibility. Experts in this group are also the ones normally responding to the request by the regional and country organizations for training and other capacity-building activities organized by the regional commissions and/or the international agencies.

22. An important activity of the year was the second International Conference on the Millennium Development Goals Statistics, held in Manila in October 2011 and co-organized by the Statistics Division and the Philippine National Statistical Coordination Board. The Conference brought together more than 100 representatives from national statistical offices and international agencies. The aims of the Conference were to: (a) exchange knowledge and share best practices in Millennium Development Goals data collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination, including subnational monitoring and how to use proxy and supplementary indicators; (b) review the implementation of the recommendations agreed in several international forums on improving the Millennium Development Goals data availability and the effective monitoring of progress; (c) review the

global, regional and country progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and targets, (d) discuss how the Millennium Development Goals indicators can be best used for policymaking, and (e) discuss the issues and challenges in monitoring Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015.

23. The conclusion and recommendations of the Conference were:

(a) For the international community, to support efforts to make Millennium Development Goals targets more ambitious to recognize different levels of development (including the use of additional, proxy or complementary indicators), to address all unresolved issues in the application of standard definitions and methodologies for the compilation of the Millennium Development Goals indicators, to strengthen country ownership of Millennium Development Goals monitoring process, to continue efforts to enhance data management and analytical tools such as SDMX, country progress snapshots and DevInfo, to increase efforts to provide guidelines and support for localizing monitoring of the Goals and addressing inequalities, and to assess the overall progress of statistical systems around the world as a result of the Millennium Development Goals monitoring process;

(b) For national statistical systems to improve the compilation of metadata in countries and their accessibility by users;

(c) To reiterate the importance of increased communication and better coordination between and among international agencies and national statistical systems/regional organizations;

(d) To advocate both at the national and international level increased promotion of Millennium Development Goals statistics not only to track progress but also to be used as basis for policy and programme interventions by Governments and the international community;

(e) To ensure the full involvement of the statistical community in the setting of targets and indicators for Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015, including sustaining the gains achieved in statistical capacity-building.

V. Assessment of data availability on Millennium Development Goals indicators

24. Since 2006, at the request of the commission, the Statistics Division has monitored the availability of data in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database. The yearly assessment has served as an indirect measure of countries' capacity to produce the data for Millennium Development Goals indicators. When considering the country coverage in the database, it is important, however, to bear in mind that not all data produced at the national level reach the international statistical system, mainly because of the inadequacy of existing reporting mechanisms, and that some of the data are the results of estimates produced by the international agencies.

25. Activities by the international agencies, regional commissions and other development partners to help countries to strengthen their statistical capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate data to monitor development and improve the dialogue between national and international experts have yielded important results. Increasingly, data production in countries has become aligned with the internationally

agreed recommendations and standards, and international agencies have developed a better understanding of data availability in countries and how to work with national experts in developing and applying the methodology needed for the production and estimation of the indicators.

26. Progress in data production in countries, improvements in the reporting from countries to the international statistical system and increased access and understanding by agencies of existing national sources have resulted in a greater availability of data in the Millennium Development Goals database.

27. Table 1 below presents the availability of data for the assessment of trends, measured as the number of countries that have data before and after 2000 (at least one data point) in the database, as of 2003, 2006 and 2011.[1] In order to compare the current status of the database with the one in 2003, only a subset of indicator series is considered, which includes those that have remained unchanged over the years in terms of definitions and methods of reporting. The number of countries for which data are available for a large number of indicator series has continued to increase over the years. In particular, the number of countries with trend data for 16-22 series increased from 0 in 2003, to 84 in 2006, and 101 in 2011. Meanwhile, the number of countries with trend data for only 0-5 series has fallen from 47 in 2003, to only 10 in 2011.

28. A decrease in data availability for some indicator series is generally due to errors or data quality issues identified by international agencies in the original national data, which result in the removal of the data in question from the series.

Table 1

Number and percentage of countries and territories in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, by number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible[a]

	Countries and territories					
Number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible[b]	*As of July 2003*		*As of July 2006*		*As of July 2011*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
0-5	47	29	15	9	10	6
6-10	66	40	22	13	13	8
11-15	50	31	42	26	39	24
16-22	0	0	84	52	101	62
Total	**163**	**100**	**163**	**100**	**163**	**100**

[a] The criteria used to determine whether trend analysis is possible for a given indicator series is that the country has data for the given series for at least one point before 2000 and one after 2000.

[b] It refers to the indicator series for which the reporting is done on all developing countries. The calculation for the indicator series on donor countries is presented separately.

[1] A brief description of the methodology for the assessment of data availability in the MDG Indicators Database is provided as annex I. The complete results of the analysis are available on the website of the Statistical Commission at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2012.htm.

29. Improvement of overall data availability, irrespective of whether the data points are before or after 2000 is even greater, reflecting a faster improvement in the data availability over more recent years. There were 122 countries in 2011 displaying data for two points in time for 16-22 series, up from only 4 countries in 2003 (table 2).

Table 2

Number and percentage of countries and territories in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, by number of indicator series with at least two data points[a]

Number of indicator series with at least two data points[b]	*Countries and territories*					
	As of July 2003		*As of July 2006*		*As of July 2011*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*[c]
0-5	31	19	9	6	9	6
6-10	49	30	19	12	6	4
11-15	79	48	31	19	26	16
16-22	4	2	104	64	122	75
Total	**163**	**100**	**163**	**100**	**163**	**100**

[a] The two points in time considered in the table refer to any time, irrespective of whether they are before or after 2000.

[b] It refers to the indicator series for which the reporting is done on all developing countries. The calculation for the indicator series on donor countries is presented separately.

[c] Total does not equal 100 owing to rounding up of percentages.

30. A more comprehensive assessment of current data availability can be conducted on the totality of the indicator series, as contained in the most recent update of the database. Table 3 below presents a full description of data series contained in the database as of July 2011, including of those series that are related to specific groups of countries — such as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and donor countries. It is important to note that the number and percentage of countries and territories in the last category (41-55 series) has decreased compared to the result in the previous report of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2010/15). The reasons are mainly: (a) for a few indicator series (mainly employment related indicators), only national reported data are now included in the 2011 Millennium Development Goals database; (b) the methodologies and definitions for the production of some Millennium Development Goals indicators have been recently improved, which made the data collected earlier no longer comparable and created a break in series. In general, though, the overall data coverage, quantity and quality has been constantly improving.

Table 3

Number of developing countries and territories in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, by number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible, as of July 2011[a]

A. Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions

Number of indicator series	*Countries and territories*	
	Number	*Percentage*
0-10	9	6
11-20	17	10
21-30	46	28
31-40	55	34
41-55	36	22
Total	**163**	**100**

[a] The criteria used to determine whether trend analysis is possible for a given indicator series is that the country has data for the given series for at least one point before 2000 and one after 2000.

B. Indicator series related to official development assistance from the 23 donor countries

Data are available for all 23 donor countries on indicator series:

8.1 Net official development assistance (ODA), total, as percentage of donors' gross national income, from 1990 to 2010

8.1 Net ODA, to least developed countries, as percentage donors' gross national income, from 1990 to 2009

8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donors to basic social services, from 1996 to 2009

8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied, from 1990 to 2009

8.9 Proportion of ODA to help build trade capacity, from 2001 to 2009

Data are available for 12 OECD countries on indicator series:

8.8 Agricultural support estimates, from 1990 to 2009

C. Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries

Data are available for landlocked developing countries on indicator series:

8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes, up to 2009 for 29 countries, 2008 for 1 country and 2005 for 1 country

D. Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States

Data are available for 31 small island developing States on indicator series:

8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes, up to 2009 for 17 countries, 2008 for 13 countries and 2005 for 1 country

Note: No more ODA has been received by the Bahamas and Singapore since 1995.

E. Indicator series related to the 40 eligible heavily indebted poor countries

Data are available for all 40 eligible heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) on indicator series:

8.10 Number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision and completion points, from 2000 to 2011

8.11 Debt relief committed under the HIPC initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, updated every year until 2011

31. Some of the data are the results of estimates produced by the international agencies to fill some of the data gaps. In order to assess the exact extent to which the data in the database reflect the actual capacity of countries to produce the necessary data, the colour coding in the Millennium Development Goals indicator database allows to distinguish between data produced by countries and adjusted data or estimates.

32. The assessment shown in table 4 below indicates the nature of the data for the majority of countries in the database. For a country to be designated as falling into a given category for the specific series, the majority of data points have to be in that category.[2] The majority of indicator series are based on data from countries with no or minimum adjustment. There are, however, still 13 indicator series for which the majority of data points are estimated by the international agency and 1 indicator series for which most data points are derived through a model based on variables other than the one the indicator is measuring. A complete list of series under each category and the related data availability is provided in annex II.

[2] The category "country data" is an exception: when the country has data in the "country data" category for at least one data point, it is classified as "country data" for that specific series, following the rationale that in that case, the country has the capacity to produce the indicator in adherence to international standards.

Table 4

Number and percentage of Millennium Development Goals indicator series by nature of the data available in the majority of countries in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, as of July 2011

	Indicator series	
Nature of data[a]	*Number*	*Percentage*
Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions		
Country data	29	53
Country adjusted	5	9
Estimated	13	24
Modelled	1	2
Global monitoring data	4	7
Not available	3	5
Total	**55**	**100**
Indicator series related to ODA from the 22 donor countries		
Country data	6	100
Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries		
Country data	1	100
Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States		
Country data	1	100
Indicator series related to 40 eligible HIPC initiative countries		
Global monitoring data	3	100

[a] The coding of the nature of data is as follows:
Country data: the figure is the one produced and disseminated by the country (including data adjusted by the country to meet international standards).
Country adjusted: the figure is the one produced and provided by the country, but adjusted by the international agency for international comparability — that is to comply with internationally agreed standards, definitions and classifications (age group, International Standard Classification of Education, etc.).
Estimated: the figure is estimated by the international agency, when corresponding country data on a specific year or set of years are not available, or when multiple sources exist, or there are issues of data quality. Estimates are based on national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources but on the same variable being estimated.
Modelled: the figure is modelled by the agency when there is a complete lack of data on the variable being estimated. The model is based on a set of covariates — other variables for which data are available and that can explain the phenomenon.
Global monitoring data: the figure is regularly produced by the designated agency for the global monitoring, based on country data. However, there is no corresponding figure at the country level, because the indicator is defined for international monitoring only (example: population below $1 a day).
Not available: the nature of data is unknown or was not provided.

33. In order for Millennium Development Goals data to be released in a timely manner, agencies have improved their communication with national statistical systems and made efforts to compile and release the international data series on the Goals as early as possible at every round of reporting. All indicators have data for the year 2000 or later. There remains, however, a delay of at least two years for most of the indicators, with only 8 indicator series with data for 2010 and 1 with data for 2011 (table 5).

Table 5
Number and percentage of indicator series by latest available year in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, as of July 2011

	Indicator series	
Latest available year	*Number*	*Percentage*
Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions		
2000-2004	1	2
2005-2006	13	24
2007	6	11
2008	8	15
2009	18	33
2010	8	15
2011	1	2
Total	**55**	**100**
Indicator series related to ODA from the 23 donor countries		
2009	6	100
Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries		
2009	1	100
Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States		
2009	1	100
Indicator series related to 40 eligible HIPC initiative countries		
2011	3	100

VI. Millennium Development Goals reporting in 2011

34. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs published the annual report, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*,[3] launched in Geneva by the Secretary-General on 7 July. The report presents the trends and analysis on Goals, based on regional and subregional figures on the official Millennium Development Goals indicators provided by the partner agencies. The data and analysis presented in the report were also used as an input to the annual report of the Secretary-General

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.I.10.

on accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/66/126) and his report on the work of the Organization (A/66/1), which contains a statistical annex with all official figures on the MDGs indicators. Both reports were issued for the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

35. The "Millennium Development Goals: 2011 Progress Chart", a colour-coded chart presenting an assessment of regions and subregions that are on- or off-track to achieve the Goals, was also issued by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs along with *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*.

36. The Statistics Division continues to maintain and improve the website and database of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals (http://mdgs.un.org). In October 2011, the Statistics Division, with the support of UNICEF and the DevInfo group, issued the MDGInfo 2011 — an adaptation of the DevInfo platform.

VII. Conclusions and way forward

37. **The Commission may wish to take note of the work done by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Statistics Division during 2011 in implementing the requests made by the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session on the improvement of data and indicators to monitor the Millennium Development Goals.**

38. **The Commission may also wish to take note of the proposed next steps:**

(a) **Continue the technical work on the country progress snapshots, in continuous consultation with experts from national statistical systems and make the methodology widely available to countries that wish to apply it;**

(b) **Continue to provide training to countries on the production of data and indicators on the Millennium Development Goals at the subnational level;**

(c) **Continue the work to reconcile the national and international data and to improve the coordination of Millennium Development Goals monitoring in countries;**

(d) **Make the updated SDMX data structure definition for Millennium Development Goals indicators widely available to national statistical systems and continue to provide technical assistance and training to countries that wish to adopt the SDMX standards on Millennium Development Goals indicators for the exchange of data and metadata within national statistical systems and for reporting to the international statistical system.**

Annex I

Assessment of data availability in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database

1. A total of 66 indicator series were included in the analysis of data availability (see list A). For the assessment of progress in the availability of data over time (between 2003 and 2011), the analysis is conducted on a subgroup of 22 key series. Considering a smaller set of indicators has the advantage that the assessment can be conducted over a longer period of time, providing a clearer indication of how data production has evolved since the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals began. The analysis is based on the information available at the time the Millennium Development Goals indicators database is regularly updated — July of each year.

2. Of the 66 series, 55 are relevant to all 163 developing countries included in the database, while the remaining refer to specific groups of countries as follows:

(a) Six series relevant to 23 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donor countries;

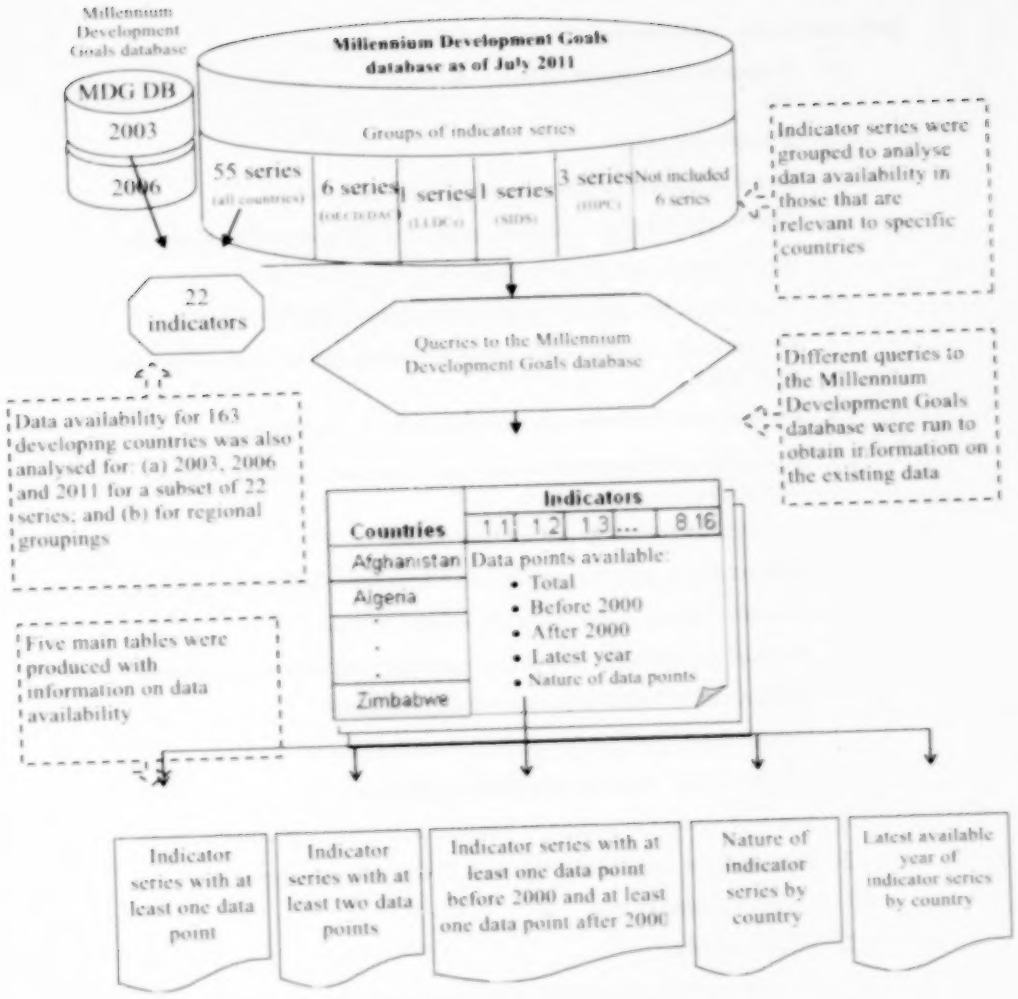
(b) One series relevant to the 31 landlocked developing countries;

(c) One series relevant to the 51 small island developing States;

(d) Three series relevant to the 40 heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative countries.

3. The remaining six indicator series were not included because data are not reported (one series), the indicators refer to an aggregated level (four series), or the reporting stated in 2010 (one series).

4. The following chart describes the steps followed to process the information:


Millennium Development Goals database
MDG DB
2003
2006
Millennium Development Goals database as of July 2011
Groups of indicator series
55 series
6 series
1 series
1 series
3 series
Not included 6 series
Indicator series were grouped to analyse data availability in those that are relevant to specific countries
22 indicators
Queries to the Millennium Development Goals database
Different queries to the Millennium Development Goals database were run to obtain information on the existing data
Data availability for 163 developing countries was also analysed for: (a) 2003, 2006 and 2011 for a subset of 22 series; and (b) for regional groupings
Countries
Indicators
1.1
1.2
1.3
...
8.16
Afghanistan
Algeria
Zimbabwe
Data points available:
• Total
• Before 2000
• After 2000
• Latest year
• Nature of data points
Five main tables were produced with information on data availability
Indicator series with at least one data point
Indicator series with at least two data points
Indicator series with at least one data point before 2000 and at least one data point after 2000
Nature of indicator series by country
Latest available year of indicator series by country

Abbreviations: LLDCs, landlocked developing countries; SIDS, small island developing States.

List A. Millennium Development Goals indicators included in data availability analysis

Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions:

1.1 Proportion of population below $1 purchasing power potential (PPP) per day

1.2 Poverty gap ratio

1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

1.4 Growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed

1.5 Employment-to-population ratio

1.6 Proportion of employed people living below $1 (PPP) per day

1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age[a]

1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education[a]

2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary[a]

2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds, women and men[a]

3.1 Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

Gender Parity Index in primary-level enrolment[a]

Gender Parity Index in secondary-level enrolment[a]

Gender Parity Index in tertiary-level enrolment[a]

3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector[a]

3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament[a]

4.1 Under-5 mortality rate

4.2 Infant mortality rate

4.3 Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles

5.1 Maternal mortality ratio

5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate[a]

5.4 Adolescent birth rate

5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)

Antenatal care coverage, at least one visit

Antenatal care coverage, at least four visits

[a] Series included in data availability analysis for 2003, 2006 and 2011.

5.6 Unmet need for family planning

6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years[a]

6.2 Condom use at the last high-risk sex

Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, men

Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, women

Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old[a]

6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

Men 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

Women 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years

6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs

6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets

6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs

6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis

Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

Tuberculosis prevalence rate per 100,000 population[a]

Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population[a]

6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)

Tuberculosis detection rate under DOTS[a]

Tuberculosis treatment success rate under DOTS[a]

7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest

7.2 Carbon dioxide emissions, total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP)[a]

7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances

Consumption of all ozone-depleting substances in ozone depletion potential (ODP) metric tons

Consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons in ODP metric tons[a]

7.5 Proportion of total water resources used

7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected

7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source[a]

7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility[a]

7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums

8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population[a]

8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population

8.16 Internet users per 100 population[a]

Indicator series related to ODA from the 23 donor countries

8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income

Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors gross national income

Net ODA to LDCs as percentage of OECD/DAC donors gross national income

8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied

8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product

8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries

8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes

Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States

8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes

Indicator series related to 40 eligible HIPC initiative countries

8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)

8.11 Debt relief committed under the HIPC initiatives and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative

Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative, cumulative

Debt relief delivered in full under Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, cumulative

List B. Indicator series not included in data availability analysis

Indicator series with data reported only at the regional or global level

7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits

7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction

8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty

8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries

Indicator series for which data reporting started in 2010

6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria

Indicator series for which no data are reported

8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

Annex II

Data availability in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, by country coverage and nature of data

Millennium Development Goals indicators		Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data[a]
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Indicator series reported for developing regions								
C = country data								
1.4	Growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed	78	48	57	35	31	19	C
1.5	Employment-to-population ratio	135	83	99	61	75	46	C
1.6	Proportion of employed people living below $1 purchasing power potential (PPP) per day	73	45	49	30	2	1	C
1.7	Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment	116	71	108	66	50	31	C
1.8	Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	155	95	154	94	79	48	C
2.1	Net enrolment ratio in primary education	125	77	119	73	94	58	C
2.2	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary	118	72	107	66	77	47	C
2.3	Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds, women and men	130	80	115	71	19	12	C
3.1	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education							
	Gender Parity Index in primary-level enrolment	143	88	140	86	129	79	C
	Gender Parity Index in secondary-level enrolment	139	85	134	82	121	74	C
	Gender Parity Index in tertiary-level enrolment	126	77	107	66	78	48	C
3.2	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	109	67	81	50	81	50	C
3.3	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	135	83	134	82	125	77	C
5.3	Contraceptive prevalence rate	118	72	85	52	87	53	C
5.4	Adolescent birth rate	162	99	162	99	145	89	C
5.6	Unmet need for family planning	102	63	55	34	52	32	C
6.2	Condom use at the last high-risk sex							
	Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, men, percentage	106	65	101	62	11	7	C
	Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, women, percentage	156	96	156	96	13	8	C
	Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old, percentage	158	97	157	96	81	50	C

Millennium Development Goals indicators	Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data[a]
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS							
Men 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, percentage	158	97	147	90	2	1	C
Women 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, percentage	163	100	163	100	2	1	C
6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years	50	31	17	10	25	15	C
6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets	46	28	27	17	2	1	C
6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs	53	33	29	18	4	2	C
6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)							
Tuberculosis treatment success rate under DOTS, percentage	154	94	153	94	144	88	C
7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest	161	99	161	99	160	98	C
7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances							
Consumption of all ozone-depleting substances (ODP) in ODP metric tons	138	85	138	85	137	84	C
Consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons in ODP metric tons	138	85	138	85	137	84	C
7.5 Proportion of total water resources used	30	18	2	1	19	12	C
CA = country adjusted							
5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	161	99	133	82	119	73	CA
5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)							
Antenatal care coverage, at least four visits, percentage	138	85	138	85	45	28	CA
Antenatal care coverage, at least one visit, percentage	142	87	140	86	99	61	CA
6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs	92	56	92	56	0	0	CA
8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services	100	61	100	61	96	59	CA
E = estimated							
1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	153	94	142	87	121	74	E
4.1 Under-5 mortality rate	139	85	139	85	138	85	E

Millennium Development Goals indicators		Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data[a]
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
4.2	Infant mortality rate	155	95	155	95	138	85	E
4.3	Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles	155	95	155	95	137	84	E
6.1	HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years	163	100	163	100	97	60	E
6.9	Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis							
	Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population	155	95	155	95	153	94	E
	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	155	95	155	95	153	94	E
	Tuberculosis prevalence rate per 100,000 population	155	95	155	95	153	94	E
6.10	Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)							
	Tuberculosis detection rate under DOTS	157	96	155	95	151	93	E
7.6	Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected	163	100	163	100	162	99	E
7.8	Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	136	83	127	78	132	81	E
7.9	Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	135	83	126	77	131	80	E
7.10	Proportion of urban population living in slums	91	56	42	26	59	36	E
M = modelled								
5.1	Maternal mortality ratio	155	95	155	95	119	73	M
G = global monitoring data								
1.1	Proportion of population below $1 (PPP) per day	137	84	103	63	66	40	G
1.2	Poverty gap ratio	118	72	86	53	66	40	G
1.3	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	161	99	145	89	61	37	G
7.2	Carbon dioxide emissions, total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP)	154	94	154	94	152	93	G
NA = not available								
8.14	Telephone lines per 100 population	158	97	158	97	155	95	NA
8.15	Cellular subscribers per 100 population	158	97	158	97	156	96	NA
8.16	Internet users per 100 population	153	94	153	94	152	93	NA

Millennium Development Goals indicators	*Countries with at least 1 data point*		*Countries with at least 2 data points*		*Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000*		*Nature of data*[a]
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	
Indicator series related to official development assistance (ODA) from the 23 donor countries							
C = country data							
8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donors' gross national income							
Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	23	100	23	100	23	100	C
Net ODA to least developed countries as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	23	100	23	100	22	100	C
8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)	23	100	23	100	20	87	C
8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	23	100	23	100	21	91	C
8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product	11	33	11	33	11	33	C
8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity	23	100	23	100	0	0	C
Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries							
C = country data							
8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes	31	100	31	100	30	97	C
Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States							
C = country data							
8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes	34	65	34	65	31	60	C
Indicator series related to 40 eligible heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative countries							
G = global monitoring data							
8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)	40	100					G
8.11 Debt relief committed under the HIPC initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative[b]							

Millennium Development Goals indicators	Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data[a]
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Debt relief committed under the HIPC initiative (cumulative)	36	90					G
Debt relief delivered in full under Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (cumulative)	32	80					G

[a] The coding of the nature of the data is as follows:
C = country data. The figure is the one produced and disseminated by the country (including data adjusted by the country to meet international standards).
CA = country adjusted. The figure is the one produced and provided by the country, but adjusted by the international agency for international comparability — that is to comply with internationally agreed standards, definitions and classifications (age group, International Standard Classification of Education, etc.).
E = estimated. The figure is estimated by the international agency, when corresponding country data on a specific year or set of years are not available, or when multiple sources exist, or there are issues of data quality. Estimates are based on national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources but on the same variable being estimated.
M = modelled. The figure is modelled by the agency when there is a complete lack of data on the variable being estimated. The model is based on a set of covariates — other variables for which data are available and that can explain the phenomenon.
G = global monitoring data. The figure is regularly produced by the designated agency for the global monitoring, based on country data. However, there is no corresponding figure at the country level, because the indicator is defined for international monitoring only (example: population below $1 a day).
NA = not available. The nature of the data is unknown or was not provided.

[b] Data on the cumulative debt relief committed are updated every year.